SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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FANS PLAN TO HONOUR JEFF

By Adam Grinsell

BAGGIES fans plan to hold a minute's applause at the next match to support a campaign launched by the family of West Bromwich Albion and England legend Jeff Astle after the Football Association apologised to his widow for its treatment of her.

Mr Astle died in 2002 aged 59, from serious brain damage sustained through repeatedly heading heavy leather balls throughout his playing career. He played for the Baggies from 1964 to 1974.

His family have launched a Justice for Jeff campaign and have called on the FA to recognise what happened to Mr Astle, who had three daughters, and to launch research into the affects of heading footballs.

The FA promised a 10-year study into the effects of heading footballs, but nothing has yet been published.

It has now apologised to Mr Astle's widow, Laraine, about its failure to keep her informed about its work.

Mrs Astle, aged 69, said: "When Jeff was diagnosed they never acknowledged the findings of the post mortem.

"The coroner said there was no doubt that heading heavy footballs killed Jeff, which we knew from the day he was diagnosed. But the FA have never acknowledged that."

Mrs Astle said she understood that at the time the FA would launch a 10-year research investigation into the affects of heading balls.

She said: "Until they acknowledge what killed Jeff, that they fully take responsibility, that the football did kill him, then they will not see the need to do the research.

"Once they do that, they have a duty of care, not just to those of Jeff's generation, not just the players of today, but to those little ones coming through now, to protect them. We need justice for Jeff," she said.

An FA spokesman said: "We deeply regret any upset caused to the Astle family due to our lack of contact during this period." It said it would speak to the Astle family about its work as soon as possible.

John Homer, chairman of West Bromwich Albion Supporters Club, said he thought the plan for a round of applause in the ninth minute of this weekend's away game at Hull would be well-received.

"The man is a legend - he was always known as the King," he added.

Summit planned on surgery closure

PLANS for a summit meeting are being drawn up to ensure patients from a closing GP surgery can still be treated nearby.

A public meeting was held on Monday between Sandwell Council's health scrutiny board and NHS England representatives over the Malling Health Wednesbury Surgery, which is due to close on April 11.

More than 2,500 patients are expected to have to move after the NHS decided not to renew its five-year contract on the centre, some of whom will have to travel several miles.

Councillors have moved to try to ensure patients can still be treated somewhere nearby in Wednesbury, if not at the surgery itself.

A mediation hearing is set to be arranged between the NHS, council and a neutral third party.

If that fail, councillors are prepared to go directly to the Health Secretary.

Councillor Paul Sandars, chairman of the scrutiny committee, said:"We want mediation regarding the location of the surgery, to keep patients from the Malling centre at the Malling practice if possible."

Ward councillor Elaine Costigan said: "I'm still worried about the patients in Wednesbury.It's three meetings we've had now"

● Leisure plan - Page 2

Sweet deal for company

SMETHWICK sweets company JTS International has been bought by confectionery wholesale group Hancocks in a major deal.

The price tag is not being disclosed but JTS is a £20m-a-year importing and supplying business .

It was founded by John Stimpson in 1991 and is based at Candy House, Crystal Drive. It imports from around the world to supply supermarkets, discount stores and wholesalers.

Players get named on new estate

THEY all pulled on the famous blue and white stripes and ran out to cheers at The Hawthorns from the Baggies faithful.

And now some of West Bromwich Albion's most revered players have something else in common – they have houses named after them on The Lyng development in West Bromwich.

League title-winning captain Jesse Pennington, promotion-winning captain 'Big Dave' Darren Moore and member of 'The Three Degrees' Laurie Cunningham are among those picked to be honoured .

More than 360 new homes were earmarked to transform The Lyng estate, in West Bromwich, in a multi-million scheme approved three years ago.

Barratt Homes West Midlands announced that some of the homes on site will be named after Baggies stars. The three bedroom 'Pennington' style homes have been built on Lyttleton Street and will be available to dedicated fans and homebuyers for around £150,000.

Others players having homes named after them are Stuart Williams, John Kaye, Peter Barnes, John Wile, Tony Godden, Daryl Burgess, Don Howe, John Osborne, Neil Clement and Ray Wilson.

Chain reaction to lotto success

Dudley's Black Country Living Museum chainmaker Kevin Lowe with the iron 100

SPARKS have been flying at the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate the Midlanders who have won money in the Lotto Raffle. There are 100 people from the Black Country who have each scored £20,000 win in the Lotto Raffle, which was only launched six months ago.

They have also helped good causes and attractions such as the museum who benefit from lottery funding. The museum has received more than £5 million Heritage Lottery Funding to date and wanted to do something to say thank you for the help the lottery had given the venue.

Kevin Lowe, a chainmaker at the museum in Tipton Road crafted the number 100 out of iron using traditional blacksmithing techniques. He said: "It's took me all day to produce the final piece and it took a lot of time to get it just right."

Problem drunks could be kicked out

THREE more further nuisance drinkers could be forced to leave the country after being warned they are making no efforts to comply with immigration laws.

The three Eastern European men, all aged under 40, are described as being 'homeless by choice'.

Work will get under way by officers in West Bromwich to deport them if they do not begin to engage with authorities hoping to find them work or training and help with their addictions to stop them from being a nuisance.

It comes under a crackdown on boozing in public places in West Bromwich town centre, which has been blighted by scenes of chronic alcohol abuse, including drunks falling asleep in the corners of shops and becoming aggressive with their owners when they are asked to move.

That is on top of begging, and anti-social behaviour in other town centre locations.

The men have already received several verbal and written warnings through the process, which takes between four and six months to complete.

Four problem drunks have already been kicked out in recent months. Inspector Akeel Najib, from Sandwell Police, said: "We have another three live cases at the moment."

Jobless total shows a fall

NEW figures today showed a record number of people in work and continuing falls in unemployment. Jobless queues are also getting shorter in Sandwell – just.

Nationwide, just over 30 million people are now in jobs, up by 459,000 on a year ago, the highest figure since records began in 1971, according to the Office for National Statistics.

In Sandwell the count fell by just 17 over the month, to 11,058 or 5.6 per cent of its population.

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Jail on hold for car insurance con trio

TWO women and a man who conspired together in a bid to commit a car insurance con with one of them claiming their BMW had been stolen have avoided immediate jail terms.

Leanne Griffiths, of Walsall, made a false claim after reporting her car stolen from Sandwell Valley Country Park on April 10 last year to avoid paying a hefty repair bill to get the faulty car fixed, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The court was told she stood to benefit from around £3,000, but the car was later found at a farm in Stafford.

Couple Kelly Turton, aged 31, and Steve Beckles, 35, both of Valley Road, Hamstead, Birmingham, also appeared at court last Tuesday for being part of the conspiracy.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said 34-year-old Griffiths, of Forrest Road, had told police the three had driven to Sandwell Valley Country Park and she had left her car to go for a walk, but when she returned it was gone.

He said she gave the value of the car as £6,000, but the insurance company was only likely to have paid out around £3,000. Turton also made a statement to the police about the alleged stolen vehicle while her partner Beckles had been present.

All three defendants pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit fraud by false representation. Judge Michael Dudley gave each of them a 12-week prison sentence, suspended by 12 months, and a two-month curfew from 7pm to 7am, and an order to pay an £80 victim surcharge.

Suspended staff back at their council jobs

THREE council workers suspended on full pay after a suspected data leak are back at work but not before it cost their cash-strapped authority around £35,000 in wages.

The suspected breach occurred last October – two managers were suspended for five months on full pay while another worker was suspended for three.

It is believed the investigation on Sandwell Council centred on whether workers had accidentally leaked details on the state of a man's mental health.

All of the members of staff work in the authority's homelessness team.

The most senior manager returned to work last week, and a senior officer's suspension was ended the week before. The third employee was only suspended until December.

At the time they were suspended, the authority had stressed that suspension was no indication any of the employees were at fault.

The council insisted it had followed with its own disciplinary procedure, but would not be drawn to explain why the process had taken five months to reach its conclusion when no further sanctions were needed against staff.

Chief Executive Jan Britton said: ""We can confirm that following a data protection incident the council undertook an independent investigation.

"As a result of this, the council self-referred the incident to the Information Commissioner's Office [the Government's data watchdog], suspended staff and took appropriate action in line with the council's disciplinary procedure.

The ICO has concluded his investigation, acknowledging the actions already taken by the council and concluding that no further action was required. We cannot comment on individuals."

Suspicious man leads to search

POLICE were seen scouring streets in Tipton after they received reports of someone acting suspiciously near to a disused railway line.

Several police cars, officers and a police dog were seen in Hempole Lane and Eagle Lane on Saturday evening.

Police received reports of someone acting suspiciously around a disused railway line.

There were also reports of suspicious cannisters being left in the area.

Residents were asked to stay in their homes as officers searched the scene and eventually found some discarded industrial batteries.

One resident of Hempole Lane, who did not want to be named, said police turned up at around 5pm and officers were scouring the area for several hours.

He said: "I noticed some police cars turn up and it looked as though there might have been police dogs too. The officers were looking up and down the street.

"They wouldn't tell me what it was about."

Inspector Pete Rowe,of West Bromwich police, said: "We had a report of suspicious activity. We found some discarded batteries."

Dancers step up to step out

Hannah Thomas, Lauren Grove, Alia Cohen, top, Gagandeep Rana, T'Ziah Lawrence and Lauren Houghton practising their moves

NEARLY 150 talented students have been getting ready to dance the night away in an annual show at their school.

Pupils at Bristnall Hall Academy, Oldbury will took to the stage this week for the annual dance extravaganza, which will featurde 40 acts including artists who are visiting the school.

Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 presented a host of dance styles including street, freestyle, disco, modern, jazz, bhangra, contemporary and ballet to name just a few.

Paula Barrie, assistant head of PE and the arts at the academy, said: "Dance Extravaganza has been going since 1997 and covers dances of various styles, showcasing work that's been completed in class and as an extra curricular activity.

"It all started when I had a group of girls in 1997 who excelled at dance, so I decided to put on a show.

"It was so successful that the headteacher gave me the job to do every year."

Students choreographed many of the dances themselves, and were given the opportunity to work with male dance artist Shaun Cope, and Jane Rose and Natasha Nance, who are both dance teachers from the academy.

Finale

For the first time this year students have also had the help of Unfold dance company, which holds classes at the school.

The finale of the event involved the whole cast dancing to hit number one song Happy, and will involve the skills of 140 students.

Work on leisure centre to begin

CONTRACTORS have been appointed to build a £7.1million leisure centre and swimming pool complex in Wednesbury.

Sandwell Council and Sandwell Leisure Trust are ploughing ahead to fast-track building the ncentre, even though it will have the unintended consequence of prompting the closure of a GP's surgery.

Interserve Construction Ltd has been selected as the contractor for the High Bullen facility.

It will have a 25-metre pool, a learner pool, two dance studios and a 100-station fitness suite and is set to open in summer 2015. The existing sports hall will be retained.

Councillor Steve Eling, the authority's deputy leader and finance chief, said: "Our decision to award the contract to Interserve follows strong competition from several companies and is a key milestone in moving ahead with the new leisure centre."Progress on the leisure centre will mean the closure of the Malling Health Wednesbury Surgery on the same site.

The surgery, with 2,500 patients, was originally supposed to relocate to a new health centre but its construction has been delayed.

Firm backing heroes charity

A TRUCK dealership group has chosen Help for Heroes as its nominated charity for this year. West Bromwich based Keltruck will be organising activities to raise money, including cake sales, barbecues and open days.

To promote the campaign, a banner has been erected at Keltruck's Kenrick Way site, which overlooks junction 1 of the M5, carrying an SMS number that allows donations by text.

Help for Heroes chief executive Bryn Parry said: "Keltruck's support and fundraising efforts are deeply appreciated. "

Tips on funding

PEOPLE active in the community can find out more about how to gain Heritage Lottery Fund support at a meeting on March 26 from 1.30 to 3.30pm at Thimblemill Library, Smethwick. Call on 0121 616 6882 or visit http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

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Junction delays down to potholes

POTHOLES have been causing major delays at one of the region's busiest junctions.

Motorists havecomplained to Sandwell Council following rush hour hold-ups on the roads leading towards Birchley Island,Oldbury, which is used by 92,000 drivers a day.

Drivers trying to get onto the M5 have been facing extra waits heading to the roundabout from the Tividale direction.

The council has revealed that the problem is being caused by potholes.

The grooves in the road surface caused by the recent wet weather have been affecting traffic sensors embedded into the road.

When the volumes of traffic have been high in the mornings, the sensors have not been changing the roundabout's traffic lights at the frequency needed to reduce the queues.

Council transport boss Councillor Maria Crompton said: ""We have adjusted the traffic signal timings which has improved the situation.

"We appreciate that this is not ideal for motorists but we are working closely with the Highways Agency to get the necessary work carried out as a priority."

Dealer call by historian

BLACK Country historian and raconteur John Sparry is appealing for anybody with memories of a well-known antique dealer for a book he is working on.

Mr Sparry, well known for his radio appearances and for his house which has changed little since the 1930s, is trying to find more information about a Mrs Fisher who kept an antique shop in Dudley Road, Tipton, around the 1950s and 60s. "I'm not sure of her first name, it might have been Brenda," he said.

Anyone who can help, can call him on 01384 359109.

Arrests over porn

TWO more men who work with children have been arrested and bailed on suspicion of possessing extreme pornography. They, were arrested in Birmingham and Sandwell on Friday. The 36-year-old from Sandwell teachersat Kings Heath Boys College, Birmingham.

Fewer convictions on domestic violence

Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper

HUNDREDS fewer people are being convicted for domestic violence in the West Midlands each year, new figures have shown.

And shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper has said she wants police forces to publish their performance figures on domestic abuse and sexual violence to get more abusive partners behind bars.

The official crime statistics show a drop both in the number of reports of domestic violence and in successful prosecutions in the West Midlands since 2010. Last year 27,853 cases were reported to West Midlands Police but just 2,570 people were convicted in the same year. That compared with 3,168 convictions from 46,829 reports in 2009/10.

In the West Midlands the conviction rate for rape cases reported in the same year has gone up from 16.6 per cent in 2008/9 to 29.9 per cent and in West Mercia it has dropped from 12.4 per cent to 10.3 per cent.

Labour has said if it wins next year's general election it will introduce a Violence against Women and Girls Commissioner to work with police forces whose performance is poor and support victims.

The party says that nationally domestic violence crimes are increasing, but that fewer cases are being passed to the Crown Prosecution Service and there are fewer convictions.

There were 838,000 reports of domestic abuse in 2012/13 – only six per cent resulted in a conviction.

Ms Cooper said: "The scale of domestic abuse is shocking. The Government and the Home Secretary have turned their backs on this issue. Support and justice for victims is getting worse not better as a result of their failure."

Better marks are gained after follow-up inspection

A SCHOOL in Sandwell has been told it is improving with pupils making better progress in maths and reading.

At the end of last year Pennyhill Primary School, West Bromwich, was told it 'required improvement' following an Ofsted inspection.

But a follow-up menitoring report from Ofsted has revealed the school is making improvements.

A report published following a two-day inspection in December said the school 'required improvement'.

It said teaching was 'not good enough to ensure that all groups of pupils made consistently good progress' and recognised that pupils did 'not achieve well in mathematics'.

The report concluded by recommending the school improve the quality and consistency of teaching and raise achievement in reading and mathematics.

The new report, following an inspection this month, identifies a number of areas of improvement.

It said: "Staff are working determinedly to tackle the areas for development identified in the last report. Pupils are beginning to make better progress in mathematics and reading."

It added that recently added displays around the school celebrate pupils' work, especially in art, but that opportunities were still being missed to emphasis pupils' writing.

Despite the improvements the school is still classified as 'requiring improvements'.

Headteacher Juliet Silverton said: "We're delighted that our hard work has been recognised in the most recent inspection monitoring report, and that there's already been a positive impact on children's learning."

Bandstand plans for town parks

NEW bandstands are set to be installed in Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich and Victoria Park in Tipton.

The council has begun the search for a supplier to recreate the Victorian bandstand that once stood in Dartmouth Park and may use a similar design in Victoria Park, Tipton.

The exact cost of the scheme is not yet known, but the hunt has been kicked off by the authority via networking website Find It In Sandwell.

If the idea is made into reality, it will tie in with the ongoing multi-million pound transformation of Dartmouth Park.

Friends of Dartmouth Park group secretary Carol Hartill said: "We're absolutely thrilled about this. We don't know how much it will cost yet.."

The scheme is aimed at transforming popular community attractions back to former glories. Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper highlighted there were already seven parks across the borough with Green Flag status.

School's joy after Ofsted praise

Children at St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School show their delight at the Ofsted report findings

STAFF and students at a school in West Bromwich are celebrating after achieving a glowing report from school inspectors Ofsted.

St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School has been classified as 'Outstanding' in a recently released report from the Government's school inspectorate. The two day inspection took place at the school in Stanway Road on January 22 and 23. Inspectors observed 14 lessons, held meetings with pupils, parents and staff. The results of the inspection were recently published in a report, it said: "Behaviour in lessons is exemplary. Older pupils enjoy supporting younger ones around the school. Pupils say that they feel very safe because they are well known and cared for by all adults."

It also said that pupils strived to produce a 'Paragraph of Perfection' and that teaching across the school is 'outstanding and never less than consistently good.'

Headteacher, Ruth Gillett, said: "This determination by Ofsted is the result of teamwork from everyone at the school. Governors, staff, parents and children have all worked tremendously hard together. All have contributed to our achievement."

The report also praised the leadership at the school. It said: "The head teacher, closely supported by her deputy, the governors and wider team, has been relentless in driving improvements in every area of the school's work."

NEWS in brief

Mapping out brighter future

A PLAN outlining how Birmingham can become more prosperous, healthier, fairer, resource-efficient and better for business has been published.

The Smart City Roadmap sets out more than 35 actions that aim to influence the city's approach to creating a sustainable and better future for its citizens by responding to challenges such as unemployment, the skills gap, health inequalities, effective mobility and carbon reduction targets.

£3m revamp for homeless centres

THREE homeless centres in Birmingham will be given a £3 million revamp.

Councillors will be asked to approve the project, due to start later this year, at a meeting on March 17.

The centres in Bournville, Nechells and Northfield cater for almost 100 households at any one time and help a wide range of people in crisis, including those fleeing domestic abuse. Work to be carried out includes the replacement of all kitchens and bathrooms.

Lorry fire near motorway junction

A LORRY fire on a busy route leading from the M5 was causing traffic delays.

Fire crews tackled the blaze close to J1 in West Bromwich. One lane of the A41 Birmingham Road close to The Hawthorns. Traffic queued back towards The Expressway.

The cab of the 29-ton Mercedes lorry was destroyed in the fire at around 7.15am on Friday. The driver was unhurt.

Inquest on fire victim, 42

AN inquest has opened on a mechanic who died in a house fire. The body of Brian Franklin, aged 42, was found in a bedroom in his house in Wood Street, Holly Hall, Dudley, on February 8. Senior Coroner Robin Balmain told the inquest at Walsall Manor Hospital yesterday that the provisional cause of death was severe burns. The inquest

Blaze on board

A BUS driver tackled a fire in the engine of his vehicle after amotorist raised the alarm. Fire crews who were called to Market Place, Great Bridge, helped him out. There were no passengers on board.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AFTER this week's suggestion of a super-city to be called Greater Birmingham, there was outrage further west and even a demand for it to be called Greater Black Country. The only fair way forward is to find the exact centre of the proposed city and take that as the name. After much measuring on the map I have it. Greater Pleck.

□□□□□□□□

SHERYL Sandberg, the Facebook chief executive and Anna Maria Chavez, the head of American Girl Scouts, are heading a campaign to ban the word "bossy" on the grounds that being called bossy undermines the confidence of girls. What a pair of bossyboots.

□□□□□□□□

IN LIFE, unspeakable. In death, unimpeachable. A shame some of the nice things said about Bob Crow since hisdeath were not said before. Two things made me like him. Firstly, I always admire people who speak up for others. Secondly, I never use the Tube.

□□□□□□□□

ED Miliband says a Labour government would not hold a referendum on membership of the EU unless Britain is asked to transfer more powers to Brussels. Imagine the fun the lawyers could have defining "powers," "asked," "transfer" and "to Brussels." What Miliband really means is that the British people will never be allowed to pull out. Which, to be fair, is much the same as David Cameron means. The net result of Cameron and Miliband's EU dithering will be a landslide for Ukip in the EU elections in May. It's that opportunity we humble voters get every five years to thumb our noses at the big political parties with that wonderful line from Romeo and Juliet: a plague on both your houses.

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HOW could the crisis-hit Co-Op Bank, having discovered a £1.5 billion black hole in its accounts, even consider awarding its new (and now resigned) boss a £3.6 million package? Simple. All it requires is an understanding of bankenomics, a black art which should not be confused with economics or anything resembling sound budgeting. Bankenomics dictates that when a bank makes a huge profit it clearly has to reward its senior staff, so it's massive bonuses all round. Bankenomics also dictates that when a bank makes a huge loss, it clearly has to attract better staff. So it's massive bonuses all round.

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HAROLD Macmillan was once asked by a journalist what he most feared in politics and replied: "Events, dear boy, events." Events certainly overtook Evan Davis's programmes, Mind the Gap (BBC2), examining the gulf between London and the rest of Britain. No study of London is complete without mentioning the curious fact that the massive influx of the global super-rich now influences UK foreign policy. How could Britain seriously intervene in Vladimir Putin's Crimean adventure when Vlad's pals might respond by taking themselves and their billions out of London, precipitating the biggest property crash in history? Dollars and roubles, dear boy. Dollars and roubles.

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I CAN understand some New Zealanders wanting to change their national flag on the grounds that it is too much like the Australian flag and, with its Union Jack, has echoes of colonialism. I can understand, too, the desire to replace it with the fern leaf, the proud symbol of New Zealand. But a fern leaf on a black background? Black is the colour of mourning and black flags are associated with pirates and Muslim extremists. The black flag with a fern leaf would be perfect for the Auckland branch of al Qaeda.

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AT a trade fair in Hanover, David Cameron looks forward to a new industrial revolution when billions of everyday objects such as fridges will be able to "talk to each other" over the internet. That's right, Prime Minister. And at night the toys all come to life and dance around the nursery. Perhaps it's time for a nice liedown . . .

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Former Labour councillor joins Greens

A COUNCILLOR who quit the Labour party a year ago has now joined the Greens.

Jayne Wilkinson becomes the Green Party's first member on Sandwell Council, having spent the past year sitting as an independent.

She was elected as a Labour councillor in Tividale in 2010 but fell out with the party last year following complaints about some of the messages Councillor Wilkinson had posted on Facebook.

The45-year-old who took the Tividale seat from the BNP, had also started a petition to stop the Crosswells Road factory from being re-built but then dropped it.

The council investigated her following an anonymous allegation that she ditched the petition because the factory owner allegedly paid to replace her car, which had been damaged in the blaze, but found no wrong-doing.

Labour has 67 out of the 72 seats on the council.

Councillor Wilkinson, who is up for election again in May, said "I have been extremely disappointed with the Labour party in Sandwell. They are seriously out of touch with the ordinary working man and woman. Sandwell Council is famous for its lack of democracy."

She claims she left Labour after 'alleged bullying' and that the party did not like her speaking out.

Councillor Darren Cooper, Labour council leader, said: "We're certainly not out of touch with ordinary working people, something that has been proved by the number of seats we have gained since 2010."

More babies mean big pressure put schools

MORE than 1,600 additional school places will be needed in Sandwell by next year as the borough experiences a massive baby boom.

An unprecedented rise in birth rates is putting pressure on the borough's schools. The full extent owas revealed in a report to Sandwell Council which recommends the expansion of four primary schools under a £5.2 million programme to create extra reception places.

by Tom Mason

Two years ago the council identified the population was growing at a rate which would mean at least 1,000 new places would be needed every year if the boom continued at the same pace, but it has now quickened.

A new report reveals that of the borough 23 wards, 22 will need extra places by April next year to keep up with the current population surge that will see around 5,000 children apply for school places by September 2014.

The wards identified as most in need of spaces were Abbey, Bristnall, Princes End, Tipton Green and Old Warley.

The baby boom is being seen across the country. The rise is being driven by more women in their 20s and 30s becoming mothers due to advances in healthcare, and more migrant families coming to the UK than the numbers leaving.

The authority's Labour leaders have previously criticised the withdrawal of funding to build any new school facilities after the cancellation of the borough's £138 million Building Schools for the Future programme.

At a meeting next week, the council's children services chief Councillor Simon Hackett, will be asked to approve the expansions of four primary schools, Perryfields, Oldbury, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, Ferndale, Great Barr, and Holy Trinity, West Bromwich.

All four will be enlarged to accept more children this year, but the move will only create an additional 105 school places for reception children by September – still leaving a significant shortfall by next year still.

It will help deal with a population increase of 8.9 per cent since between 2001 and 2011 – the period covered by latest national census. But the report warned that the only ward likely to continue to meet demand was Newton.

British bus deal signed

NATIONAL Express West Midlands, the region's biggest bus operator, announced today (Thursday) the signing of a £100m deal for 600 British-built buses. The agreement with Alexander Dennis will support 2,000 British jobs. The news was welcomed by West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson who called on other West Midlands companies to buy British. The vehicles will be equipped with the latest customer comfort technology, low emissions engines as well as high definition CCTV. Mr Watson said: "Deals like the one announced today by National Express West Midlands are what British companies should be doing."

I miss Banks's, says Jeff

Jeff atop the new library roof with Jasper Carrott after receiving his walk of stars award

ROCK legend Jeff Lynne revealed he has not ruled out a return to touring as he became the latest to be honoured on Birmingham's Walk of Stars.

And as the star accepted his home city's accolade, the frontman and co-founder of ELO told what he missed most from home: Banks's Bitter.

He spoke alongside long-term friend Jasper Carrott, from whom he received his star while standing on the roof of Birmingham's multi-million pound new library.

Now living in California, Lynne has not really spent a long time in England for the past 23 years.

He said: "I miss proper beer. I used to like Banks's a lot but I haven't had any of that for a long time."

His place on Birmingham's Walk of Stars means the composer, music producer and Brummie rock hero follows in the footsteps of fellow musicians Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi and Roy Wood in having a star etched with his name on Broad Street.

Lock-up is suspended for charity cash thief

A WOMAN who stole two poppy collection tins raising money for the Royal British Legion has escaped an immediate jail sentence.

Amy Sanders, of Bobbers Hill Lane, Nottingham, was given two 26-week sentences, suspended for two years, at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Sanders, originally from Birmingham, admitted the two theft offences in which she and two men stole poppy boxes from hotels in Oldbury and Birmingham on November 6.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said: "She and two others took it upon themselves to go into two hotels in the knowledge that the charity collection boxes would have been fairly full."

Karl Tookey, Sanders' partner, and his brother Adam have already been jailed for a year.

Miss Liz de Oliveira, for Sanders, said she had played a distraction role in the thefts. She said: "She would like me to say on her behalf that, she made a derogatory comment to the police officer but she would like to apologise for that."

Recorder Anthony Potter ordered Sanders to carry out a 18 month supervision order, do 120 hours unpaid work and attend a women's project programme.

Swim class for adults

ADULTS who have never learned to swim are being urged to finally take the plunge and start taking lessons.

Teachers at Halesowen Leisure Centre have set up the sessionsfor non-swimmers or who are not confident in the water.

They will be held on Tuesdays between 6.30pm and 7.30pm and from 11.30am to 12.30pm on Wednesdays. Sessions cost £4.70 and there is no need to book.

For more information call Halesowen Leisure Centre on 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Coroner plea

THE family of a man who died at a hospital in the Midlands is being sought by a coroner. Arthur Westwood, 72, of Breteon Close in Dudley, died on March 8 at Russells Hall Hospital. To help call Elaine Huckfield on 0845 352 7490.

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Keltruck chooses Heroes as its charity

A WEST Bromwich truck dealership group has chosen Help for Heroes as its nominated charity for this year.

Keltruck will be organising activities throughout the year to raise money for the cause including cake sales, barbecues and open days. Staff from the organisation will also be attending all of Keltruck's events in the year, including Truckfest Malvern and the All Wales Show.

To help promote the campaign, an 11 metres by 4.5 metres banner has been erected at Keltruck's Kenrick Way site, which overlooks the busy Junction 1 of the M5, carrying an SMS number that allows donations to be made by text message.

Bryn Parry chief executive and co-founder of Help for Heroes, said: "Keltruck's support and fundraising efforts are deeply appreciated. The money raised is greatly needed; soldiers, sailors and airmen who are injured today will still need our support in the future.""

Keltruck has a long history of charity work, including supporting local children's charities, the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and the National Society for Epilepsy.

Nutini's tour date at Civic

SCOTTISH singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini has announced a Wolverhampton date on his latest tour.

The Last Request singer will play in the Wolverhampton City Council on May 30. His breakthrough album Sunny Side Up made him a household name in 2009.

His new single, Scream (Funk My Life Up) is released on March 30 while his new album, Caustic Love, is released next month. It was recently announced that he would be playing V Festival at Weston Park, near Wolverhampton, in August.

Bikeability

CYCLE training is set to receive a fresh boost after a council successfully bid for extra funding from the Department for Transport.

Funding for Birmingham is set to total £180,000 for 2014/15 – a 50 per cent increase on the initial sum given for the current finan-

The booze is back in town for May Day

AN OUTDOOR beer festival was so successful that it is set to return for a second year.

Thousands of punters visited the beer festival in Bearwood's Lightwoods Park last year, a part of the popular annual May Day celebrations which drew a crowd of 22,000 people.

And now organisers have applied for a licence for this year's event, which is set to take place on Monday, May 5.

They have asked Sandwell Council for a 'limited time licence', which would see them serve alcohol in the designated area between 10.30am and 8pm.

Lightwoods Park Friends Group chairman Richard Marshall said: "Last year was the first outdoor beer festival to take place in Sandwell. "It was an enormous success and we sold out of everything. We had nine different ales and four different ciders, and we sold out of the first cider within 25 minutes - all of the cider was gone within 45 minutes.

"There was not a single bit of trouble last year, 22,000 people attended and we had only two officers who were coming in and out. We had Sandwell wardens on site, but mostly it was volunteer stewards looking after the crowds and we didn't have one incident.

"Licences can be granted on the basis of how trouble free events have previously been, so we are hopeful we will be given permission this year."

A decision on whether the licence is granted is expected to be made within the coming weeks.

Last year Enville Breweries, based near Stourbridge, parked up its beer bus to host the real ale festival, and will return this year along with Black Country Inns.The May Day Festival itself is also expected to be bigger and better than ever before, with 30 bands playing to the crowds from the park's bandstand. Hit 80s reggae group Musical Youth, best known for their 1982 single Pass The Dutchie, will be closing the event.

Mr Marshall added: "The first year we did the festival we organised it in six weeks, and this year we have had to start organising in January. We have had 200 people come forward and apply for stalls.

"The strongman competition will also be back again, bigger than before."

Car boot sale hope after scheme sent in to council

A NEW car boot sale for Oldbury could soon be one step closer after an application for planning permission was lodged.

Sandwell Council is hoping to open up its Dudley Road car park on Sundays to the possibility of holding a car boot sale or market. Now, the urban regeneration team at the local authority has submitted an application to its own planning department in seek approval for their plans.

The application states the site would be cleared and turned back into the car park, which has space for 561 vehicles, in time for Monday mornings, although it doesn't reveal how many pitches would be available to sellers or traders.

It goes on to say: "Refuse from events will be collected in portable bins and disposed of via skip which will be removed at the close of events. Toilet facilities will be provided by 'tardis' portaloos, either remaining on site or removed at close of events as required by the council's facilities manager."

It also reveals the opening times for traders on the site would be between 8am to 12.30pm, while it would be open for 'other' usage, such as set-up and clearance, from 5.30am to 8am and 12.30pm to 2pm.

The proposals for the scheme were approved by the council last July, when it was claimed there is demand for the introduction of such a service in the town.

Sandwell Council's economy boss Councillor Ian Jones approved the initiative, which is expected to run for an initial period of 12 months, saying at the time: "It was also approved with a proviso that if the land is to be developed in a future time, then we will have to find somewhere else."

Reunion to be a jolly good time

MEMBERS of a 'jolly' youth club founded nearly 90 years ago are getting ready to reminisce at a big reunion on Saturday in Tipton.

More than 140 former members are expected at the reunion of the Bloomfield Methodist Youth Club.

It was formed by the Rev Ran Holton as 'The Jolly Club', with separate boys' and girls' sections, in 1925 and met at the Methodist church in Bloomfield Road.

And it had various names until, in 1978, the church and hall were demolished and members transferred to a newly-formed Tipton Green Methodist Church.

It finally closed in 1986.

Roger Hill, of Mansion Close, Dudley, was the boys' leader from 1965 until 1981 and has produced a five-hour long DVD showing film footage of the youth club's events and members.

He said: "We're looking forward to a great night, with people from Spain and the USA coming over for it."

Former member wanting to attend the reunion at Brook Street Community Centre should contact Patrick Hoban 07876 755568.

Science sparks hair-raising fun

Liz Nash, 20, with the Van de Graaff static electricity generator at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

HOW'S this for a hair-raising experience – 20-year-old Liz Nash was one of thousands of young people enjoying the country's biggest science and engineering fair in the West Midlands.

She was trying out a Van de Graaff static electricity generator, one of the many exhibits at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

The event, which is expected to welcome more than 75,000 people over the next three days, opened its doors to visitors from across the country who came to take part in science experiments, lectures and exhibitions.

During the event youngsters aged between seven and 19 were able to take part in a number of fun events including the 'Kaboom' show, hosted by TV science presenter Greg Foot that explored the anatomy of an explosion and the chemistry of gunpowder. For those more interested in their stomachs, TV presenter Stefan Gates took visitors on an interesting journey into the science of their lunch, were they could see rockets, edible insects, flatulence and more loud explosions.

Paul Jackson, chief executive of The Big Bang, said: "This year is set to be one of the biggest and most exciting years yet – with registration numbers at a record high. The Big Bang Fair is more than just a fun day out.

"It gives young people the chance to speak to leading scientists and engineers and to see for themselves the range of exciting careers that their

NEWS in brief

Citizen Khan to return home

ADIL Ray, the star of BBC sitcom Citizen Khan, will return to the Midlands to host a university talk.

The Birmingham-born actor, comedy writer and broadcaster is headlining the next in the series of Birmingham City University's City Talks series. He created the the BBC One comedy which will have a third series later this year.

The event takes place at the University's Parkside building on April 3. Visit www.bcucitytalks.eventbrite.co.uk for tickets

Lottery funding tips at meeting

PEOPLE active in the community can find out more about how to gain support from the Heritage Lottery Fund at a meeting later this month.

Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, will host the event on March 26 from 1.30-3.30pm. People attending can find out about Heritage Lottery Fund grants starting from £3,000.

To find out more, call Catherine Kemp on 0121 616 6882 or email catherine.kemp@hlf.org.uk.

Mental health figures alarm

THE number of under-18s admitted to adult mental health wards for treatment is rising.

Despite government pledges the practice would be stamped out by 2010, more children spent time on adult wards in the first eight months of 2013/14 than the whole of the previous year – a total of 250 as opposed to 219,, according to the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Carillion up for library accolade

BLACK Country Carillion group is in the running for a national award for its construction work on the iconic new Library of Birmingham.

The £188 million project is one of eight in the running for the project of the year accolade in the Building Awards 2014. Winners will be announced at an event in London on April 2.

Homes event

THE Birmingham NEC will play host to the Home Improvement Show.

The event is on from March 27 to 30 alongside the National Homebuilding and Renovating Show.

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

THEY say one of the surest signs of getting older is when the policemen start looking younger.

But what about when the police start looking smaller. Or made out of vinyl?

Over the last few months they seem to have been spreading like wildfire. PCSOs, community beat bobbies, it seems no shop is complete now without a self-adhesive law enforcer in the window.

We've all heard the unkind comments about 'plastic policemen', but really is taking it too far.

❑❑❑❑❑

THE other week, while using a self-scanning till at a local branch of Tesco, a member of staff was required to verify that I was over the age of 18 while purchasing a six-pack of beer.

And what, you might ask, is wrong with that? Well the beer in question was alcohol-free. Why, even the old Top Deck shandy cans used to have a trace of alcohol in them, and I don't recall children being stopped from buying them. Even stranger is the warning on Beck's Blue, another low alcohol brew. "Please drink responsibly" it says on the label, which gives the alcohol content as being 0.05 per cent. And quite right too. Do not even consider getting driving a car after 200 bottles.

❑❑❑❑❑

NOEL Edmonds, unveiling his proposal to privatise the BBC, says he no longer buys a television licence because there is nothing on the normal terrestrial services he wants to watch. "I don't watch except on catch-up," he says. And quite right too. So how does he feel about all those years he was forcing Mr Blobby and Telly Addicts on us?

❑❑❑❑❑

FIREFIGHTERS were this week called to deal with a fire at a suspected cannabis factory in Tettenhall, emitting huge plumes of smoke into the atmosphere. A man was arrested, but neighbours are said to be relaxed about the matter. Very relaxed indeed.

❑❑❑❑❑

JUST when you think you have heard everything, Aaron Parfitt, 14, has been suspended from his school in Blackpool for organising a walk-out because he felt he was not getting enough homework. He complained he was passed from pillar to post when he tried to raise concerns about the quality of his teaching with Blackpool Council and Ofsted. He managed to persuade 100 of his peers to join him on his protest. I know teenagers will do anything for a day off school, but demanding more homework? The news comes a week after fellow Blackpool resident Gemma Worrall hit the headlines because she thought 'barraco barner' was Britain's head of state. They must have some really good schools up there.

The Hippodrome building's crumbling facade

Inside the former top entertainment venue

The Dudley Hippodrome back in its heyday

Theatre just not viable, says expert

ANDREW TURTON reports on findings that call into question the reasoning for saving Dudley Hippodrome

IT is a report which delves into questions at the heart of a campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome from being bulldozed into oblivion.

Experts are set the task to analyse the future for the theatre and whether hope to reopen the Hippodrome can become a reality.

Dudley Council spent £2,750 commissioning consultants to appraise a business plan compiled by campaigners to run the landmark theatre.

Now we can reveal the contents of that report after being granted access through a Freedom of Information request.

Herefordshire-based consultants Artservice were commissioned last year to look at the future of the building which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year.

Now the stark prediction dealt by consultant Alun Bond reveals concerns for the future.

Lifestyle

"The Hippodrome is a major theatre and has undoubtedly played an important and memorable role in the cultural life of Dudley and its people," he said. "In its heyday, would have been a major resource to the borough.

"Unfortunately, due to the radical changes in lifestyle and leisure consumption that have taken place, its isolated location, the loss of its technical facilities, and the changes that have occurred in the regional market for theatre and in national touring product availability, mean that it is no longer positioned to be able to compete effectively in the theatre market. It is very difficult to see therefore how it might be restored to a venue capable of viable and sustainable operation."

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Chairman Gordon Downing with supporters

One crucial issue he identified was competition from other Midland theatres and potential for barring clauses stopping certain shows from appearing at the nearby Dudley Hippodrome. Such clauses can prevent a touring company or performer playing two theatres within a certain distance and time period of each other.

He said this potentially could include theatres like Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome and The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

Campaigners had secured the interest of Bill Kenwright, a major producer of touring musicals, at bringing shows to the Hippodrome. However Mr Bond, in his report said it would be unlikely to secure productions from ATG, also known as the Ambassador Theatre Group, which is also one of the UK's leading theatre operators, as this would compete with the New Alexandra, which it operates.

He did add that the Hippodrome could play a role as a live music venue and may attract some visiting shows due to its large capacity. He also said the venue could conflict with the programme of shows already at borough venues such as Dudley Town Hall.

Yet friends group chairman Gordon Downing said this would not be a problem.

"Personally I'm not looking at staging one-off nights," Mr Downing said. "I would prefer shows to come in Tuesday to Saturday.

"The fact that they say there is not enough room on the circuit, I can't imagine that one extra theatre would make much difference to them at all. They would only be working for one week extra and getting extra profit from that."

Mr Bond suggests a capital investment of between £5m and £10m would be needed along with a 'significant' annual council subsidy of at least £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

Many theatres areowned by local authorities but are now often managed by trusts or separate commercial operators, the report says.

Mr Bond says the 'danger' is the friends group would be unable to attract the funding required should it be retained and run on a voluntary basis.

But Mr Downing questioned the need for financial involvement by the council and says the friends group have never asked for support in annual subsidies.

"We never say it would be run by volunteers," he said. "Volunteering would mainly just be able help clearing it initially.

"Depending on the situation we would be looking to employ 15 to 16 full time staff."

Mr Downing added: "We have not asked for any money at all from the council but why shouldn't we have its co-operation at least. We want the council just to come back to the table and listen to us and see our vision."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FIFTY patients, many attached to life support machines, were evacuated from Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital as a blazing roof threatened to engulf the entire top floor.

A HIGH Court judge ordered the miners' union to call off flying pickets from travelling to pits which continued to operate during the strike. Mr Justice Nolan granted the National Coal Board an injunction under the controversial Employment Act

GERRY Adams, the Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, was gunned down in his car during a lunch break from a court case he was involved in. He was taken to Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast after being shot in the city.

1994

CHART toppers Chaka Demus and Pliers appeared in Wolverhampton for the first time, but didn't get quite the reaction they had been hoping for. Angry fans threatened to walk out as they became tired of waiting for the band. The concert started at 7.30pm, but the group did not take to the stage until 10pm.

KIDNEY patients from Wolverhampton were flying to India for transplants because of a shortage of organs in Britain. Five people from the town had paid around £2,500 for the operations in Bombay clinics. The donors, from India's poorer classes, were risking their lives for as little as £200, it was claimed.

2004

A FRUIT and veg seller who fought a three-year battle for the right to sell in pounds and ounces died from a suspected heart attack at the age of 39. Steven Thoburn, from Sunderland, had been prosecuted for breaching the Weights and Measures Act by selling bananas by the pound. His Imperial scales were confiscated and he was given a six-month conditional discharge in 2001.

BUS lay-bys were being removed from a busy main road, sparking concerns the move would lead to an increase in congestion. The lay-bys were being blocked up as part of a £1.7m Red Route scheme along Stafford Road in Wolverhampton. Transport chiefs claimed that it would be safer for buses to stop on the main carriageway rather than pulling into lay-bys.

ASTON Villa ruthlessly despatched their Premiership neighbours Wolves with a 4-0 win. There was a brief chance for Wolves to get back into the game on the stroke of half-time but Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty from Vio Ganea.

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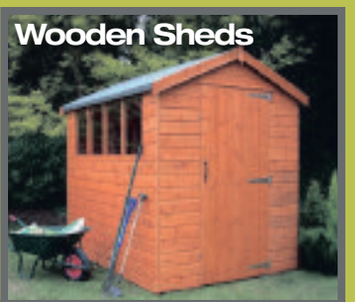
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Poor state of affairs for NEC sale

BIRMINGHAM City Council is the custodian of our assets, not the owner, and it has no right to sell off the NEC business. So why is Birmingham selling its crown jewels, when most of the debts are those created by an incompetent council who didn't pay women their equal rights, and then entered a long protracted court case that it was never going to win.

So why didn't the council just pay up at the time, other councils did and they haven't now got a billion pound back pay bill, selling off assets and then pretending that it's in the best interest of the business – it is almost comical if it wasn't such a bizarre statement.

The NEC, will expand, but with new owners there will be job losses, and the growth will be money-led, some might say this is progress, and although I don't disagree with the principle of a business making a profit I would have liked the profit to be Birmingham's not some business entrepreneur who going to cash in because our council sold out.

S T VAUGHAN, Yardley Wood

Plague of roadworks

THE council has just finished roadworks at Hollyhedge Road lights.

Now they have moved along to by the former Churchfields High School. A mile away in Reform Street they are digging up a pavement over the Expressway. Just along a bit and Bull Street is closed so traffic diverts to get to High Street. There, by the hotel is more roadworks.

To top it up, the ring way has a contra flow system to add to the misery. Even the bus people have joined in. Arriving at the bus station, Stand E is closed due to works there.

I must congratulate Sandwell Council on the care it is taking of West Brom's roads. We must have the best maintained roads in the country, pity we cannot drive on 'em.

R W WHITE
Wigmore
West Bromwich

Praise for dog stance by council

WELL done to Birmingham City Council for implementing local by-laws to control the handling of dogs in public and open spaces.

Do not misunderstand me, the measures that BC Council have taken are not an answer to the dog problem, but does go some way to control them. The downside is, I fail to see how one dog walker can control up to four dogs, loose in an open space. The upside is all dogs must be on a lead in a public space, policing it is a different matter.

In a letter to the leader of Walsall Council, I suggested all dogs in public places be muzzled, they cannot bite. The local council can pass by-laws to this effect. My reply stated that they thought there was no reason to implement such actions, even though there have been dog attacks in the past 12 months.

At least BC Council know there is a problem and doing something about it. I still think a muzzle for dogs out in public places, is the only way to stop dog attacks.

A PARKER, Willenhall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

BBC is great value for cost of licence

I AM a great fan of the BBC. It was part of my childhood when I would 'Listen with Mother', and I can recall the first 'Blue Peter' on TV. The BBC was at one time the great innovator.

However, due to various scandals involving sex, and the amounts paid to certain presenters, the BBC has come under attack from people who have their own agendas.

The BBC must share part of the blame, but to consider scrapping the TV licence simply because of affairs which have not affected the actual quality of programmes is plainly an idea bereft of common sense. The licence fee is no tax. It is wonderful value for money.

It costs about forty three pence a day to pay for the BBC, and this covers six TV channels, six main radio stations, many local radio stations and one of the biggest websites in the world, and people want to risk this!

If the BBC were to go it would just be another nail in the coffin of the British way of life, and open the door to more commercialism, as if we didn't have enough already.

On a local note, I would like to see the BBC do something about Radio WM. Carl Chinn was sacked for no apparent reason, and yet the station fancies itself as serving Birmingham and the Black Country – this does not represent the area it covers properly.Carl Chinn was a lifeline to listeners; a line which has now been cut.

CK MILLWARD, Tipton

Downside of dog muzzling

ACCORDING to A Parker we should muzzle all dogs in public? That will be fun seeing a Chihuahua or miniature Yorkie with one. I agree with keeping dogs on leads and the other points made.

A Parker ends "a muzzled dog cannot kill", well two things wrong: 1) children seeing dogs muzzled will grow up to be afraid of them; 2) most of the attacks have been in the home so do I take it that the dogs would have to wear it 24/7?

Why not have them all put down, and cats as they could rip a child's eye out!

J DAVIES
West Bromwich

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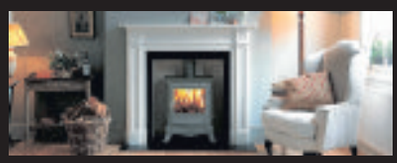

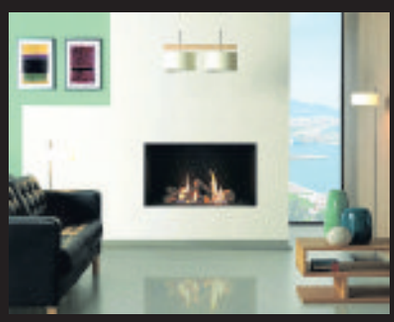

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Modern 1,000-home development unveiled

THIS is a first glimpse of what a huge housing development on the edges of Smethwick could look like.

The artist's impression shows the Icknield Port Loop, between City Hospital and Edgbaston reservoir, which could see more than 1,000 homes developed on brownfield land.

Bound on all sides by a bend in the Birmingham Old Canal Line, the site already has outline planning permission approved for 1,150 homes, 6,690 square metres of retail and commercial space, a hotel and a swimming pool.

In partnership with the Canal and River Trust, Birmingham City Council is looking to bring the site forward for development later this year, and is now looking for a delivery partner to take a 50 per cent share.

Sir Albert Bore, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "I am pleased to announce the next stage in the delivery of Icknield Port Loop, one of the key development opportunities in Birmingham.

"This is a substantial opportunity for a committed private sector partner to get involved in the early stages of a very exciting residential-led regeneration scheme that will provide a significant number of new homes and jobs for the people of Birmingham, and act as a catalyst for further major regeneration proposals in the pipeline."

Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell Council's leader and of the neighbouring Soho and Victoria ward, said he hoped the development would benefit the borough.

"Any such investment in the area is going to be good for people in the ward and in the borough," he said.

"People in my ward use Birmingham facilities particularly City Hospital and they will hopefully see the benefit of this."

The development is part of the biggest brownfield residential site in Birmingham, the Greater Icknield regeneration area, which covers 150 acres and will see more than 3,000 homes built.

Waheed Nazir, director of planning and regeneration at Birmingham City Council, added: "As the largest Brownfield residential-led development opportunity in the city, Icknield Port Loop is a key part of Birmingham's ambitious growth agenda. Benefiting from a substantial waterside setting, including the 58 acre Edgbaston Reservoir, the site has huge potential to create a new family-focused, sustainable neighbourhood."

Another view of the massive development following its completion

An artist's impression of what homes in the Icknield Port Loop could look like

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Police chief in drugs gear suppliers hope

ONE of the lead investigators behind a landmark conviction of 11 specialist sellers who helped supply equipment to cannabis growers has said he hopes the case will spark a debate over legislation.

Hydroponics shop owners and workers from across the Black Country and Birmingham were sentenced last Tuesday for helping others to grow cannabis.

They had been selling the hydroponics equipment needed to produce the class B drug, and were convicted following an extensive undercover police operation.

One of those behind the sting, Acting Detective Chief Inspector Tom Chisholm, said there is currently nothing in law to regulate this kind of hardware.

Debate

He said: "We wanted to test a hypothesis that they were going beyond just selling the equipment, and in the cases of the ones we convicted they were. I'm hoping having this sort of debate might kick start people into looking into legislation around this, but that's out of my hands."

The operation was launched in response to the number of this type of shop that seemed to be springing up across the West Midlands.

DCI Chisholm said: "We noticed that a lot of the cannabis factories we were raiding had equipment that can be bought from these kinds of places.

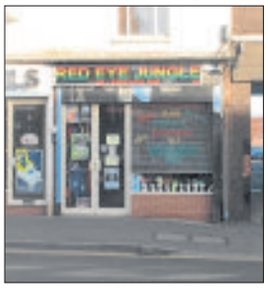
" We selected a few of these shops and sent in undercover officers, who spoke to the people working there.

"We had general conversations about setting up 'grows', and as a result the majority openly engaged with us, and spoke about things like crop cycles, profits from grows, and methods to avoid police detection."

As a result, some of those involved with three hydroponics shops in the Black Country - Growpatch Ltd on Blackheath High Street, Extra Grow Hydroponics at Wednesbury Trading Estate, and Red Eye Jungle Shop in Stafford Street, Walsall - have now been convicted. A 28-year-old man from Oldbury, who worked at a shop in Grow World, Bristol Road South, Northfield, was also jailed. All 11 who were convicted at Birmingham Crown Court had pleaded guilty to assisting others to commit an offence.

The unit that housed Growpatch Ltd

Grow World, Bristol Rd South, Northfield



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Curtians up on a new deal for theatre

TheOld Rep Theatre in Birmingham looks set to have a new tenant after tendering process

A COMPANY has been found to breathe new life into a 100-year-old theatre. Birmingham City Council has been looking for a new firm to operate the Old Rep.

Cabinet members will be asked to approve proposals to sub-let the building to Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) for five years. The 383-seat theatre, which is based in Station Street in the city centre, was built in 1913 and was home to the Birmingham Repertory Company.

The Old Rep – the first theatre in England to be designed for repertory – has been home to the Birmingham Stage Company since 1992. Following a tender process, the BOA would have the option to extend until March 2024.

Public loo-sing clarity

IT has taken months of negotiations, hours of discussion over hundreds of pages of obscure legal jargon, and still the future of a disabled toilet has not been decided.

Sandwell Council has released a heavily-redacted copy of its so-called Concordat – a legal document setting out its 25-year partnership with Sandwell College, that will see a sixth form centre created after a multi-million pound refit of The Public.

Hundreds of pages of the document were released under Freedom of Information laws. What the much-discussed document could not clarify however was what would happen to the Changing Places lavatory. A total of 57 clauses or documents were blanked out from view.

There was also no clarification on the members of the public's future ability to use the Changing Places toilet, which is equipped to cater for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell's deputy leader, said: "The Changing Places facility will remain once the construction period is concluded. The council and college will be working together on the exact access arrangements for members of the public with severe disabilities."

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Inspirational Gaurav now back home with family

HE HAS spent the past three months in isolation recovering from a life-saving bone marrow transplant.

But now brave two-year-old Gaurav Bains is back home in the loving arms of his family – after becoming an inspiration to thousands.

Gaurav underwent the operation just before Christmas and has spent the weeks since locked away in his hospital room to give his immune system time to rebuild.

His family are over the moon that he is now back home in Tipton.

Parents Sunny and Gurprit took it in turns to stay at their son's bedside throughout his stay at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Mr Bains, aged 31, said: "It's brilliant, he's back at home where he belongs."

Leukaemia

Gaurav, from Alexandra Road, has left hospital almost 12 weeks after he was admitted, and 71 days after his stem cell transplant.

Had he not received the transplant, to treat an extremely rare condition called Monosomy 7 Syndrome, then it is likely he would have developed an aggressive form of childhood leukaemia.

It is the plight of Gaurav, and other children who also suffer from rare conditions, such as baby Margot Martini, that have highlighted the drastic need for bone marrow donors.

Their stories have inspired thousands to support the campaign.

There are several registers in the UK, such as Anthony Nolan Trust and Delete Blood Cancer, which list all of those who could be potential matches for those in need.

But when some are struck down with such serious conditions, those lists have proved to be desperately short. Like Gaurav, whose family fought to find a donor match by organising registration events nationwide, 17-month-old Margot's hopes of finding a donor were pinned on getting more people to provide their DNA.

Margot, whose mother is originally from Essington, was 14 months old when she was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer.

Following registration events in her name, it is estimated that around 50,000 people signed ups. At the end of last month, she too underwent a transplant. Her parents are facing an anxious wait to see if it has been a success.

Gaurav with father Sunny, mother Gurprit and his sister Kiran

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The company perform family favourite The Wiz on stage in 1999

Eurobeat director Maureen Bowyer, left, and Anne Hewitt

A stage adaptaion of comic strip favourite Andy Capp from 1991, by the company

A 1990 performance of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

The Night Maxi Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobes, in 1992

Group to see future in Eurovision for milestone silver anniversary

MEMORY LANE
by Adam Grinsell

IT has created lifelong friendships and been served by different generations of the same families – and a musical theatre group is now celebrating its silver anniversary.

The Great Barr Musical Theatre Company has reached a milestone 25 years with its performances still a popular draw for audiences.

And to mark the occasion members will put on a show for a run of four nights – a first for the group. The company's first performance, in 1989, was a production of The Wiz, telling the classic story and musical The Wizard of Oz.

And since then members have gone on to bring a wide range of well-known musicals to the stage – including the Little Shop of Horrors, Guys and Dolls, the Wedding Singer and Boogie Nights.

Members have also performed Return to the Forbidden Planet, Little Me and Reality the Musical. The group presently has 25 members but are always only open to new people who want to join and take part in performances. It also has its own band which performs the music during shows.

To celebrate the anniversary, the group will be putting on the special performance of musical Eurobeat in July.

The show, described as a 'mickey take' of the Eurovision Song Contest, will see a number of performances from 'contestants'. During the show, the audience is encouraged to get involved by voting for their favourites. It will be staged at the Old Rep Theatre, in Birmingham, from July 1 to 4.

Members of the group said they were very proud to reach the landmark anniversary but admitted it had not always been easy due to production costs and getting new members on board. Office manager Anne Hewitt, 59, from Duxford Road, Great Barr, has been a member since the group was founded by friends.

Both of her daughters have been members of the group in the past, and her husband Gary joined up in 1997. She said: "Being a part of this company gives you great confidence and it's a great sense of being part of something," she said.

Memorable

"I've met some amazing people that have got amazing talent they didn't realise they had. I've had a lot of ups and downs in my life and it's helped me to get over them."

Anne has performed in all of the group's shows and is one of only three original members taking an active role in the company, alongside Albert Lyons and Margaret Pitt – although they have taken breaks from the group. Group secretary Maureen Bowyer said there had been memorable moments for the group over the years – including the time one member fell into the band pit before a performance. But after emerging unscathed the performer, Shirley Lane, went ahead with her performance.

Maureen said: "It really was a case of the show must go on. It was just before a production of Chicago. After she fell the whole place went totally silent for around 30 seconds until she popped her head out and shouted 'I'm okay'."

Rehearsals for the show are under way with the group meeting once a week at the Co-op Rooms, in Walsall Road, Great Barr on Tuesday nights. And members have also been out and about searching for materials to make the costumes for the new show.

The group says, just like the real Eurovision, there will be a wide range of styles including traditional dress, some 70s Glam rock influenced outfits and some which are a little more bizarre. For ticket or membership inquiries, see www.greatbarrmusicaltheatrecompany.co.uk

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Shop crime fall as police patrols rise

REPORTS of crime have dropped off around a Smethwick shopping centre which had become a lure for nuisance youths and drug users.

West Cross was the scene of youths behaving in an anti-social way around the end of last year.

Many of the reports were received by police between 3pm and 1am.

Sgt Amjad Rasul, responsible for the St Paul's neighbourhood which includes the Oldbury Road centre, said there had been fewer reports in February and January.

He said: "Crime and anti-social behaviour reports have remained low during the last month.There have been no ASB reports since the start of January and only six incidents relating to other matters.

"The neighbourhood team for the area have been continuing to conduct random high visibility stop-checks on the precinct due to intelligence around drug usage, resulting in two further offences of drug possession being dealt with. The police are still in close contact with the management agents for the centre and are using a partnership approach to resolve local issues."

Officers say neighbouring streets had also been the subject of calls to officers, including graffiti problems, criminal damage and domestic violence. Sgt Rasul said the extra patrols would be maintained, despite the recent dip in reports.

Ward Councillor Zahoor Ahmed said: " Over the past years we have seen crime coming down generally across Smethwick."

Ian Gould swam in aid of End Polio Now

Ian's great lengths to support charity

A SENIOR probation office has taken a dip in the pool to raise money for a charity close to his own heart.

Ian Gould has swum more than two miles for End Polio Now.

He chose the charity after suffering from the disease as a child.

The two-hour gruelling swim on March 11 saw him complete more than 112 lengths of Langley swimming pool in Vicarage Road for the charity, which aims to completely eradicate the disease from the world.

He said: "At 112 lengths, I felt strong and was only just getting into my stride. I probably had another 30 lengths in the tank.

"Those who provided pace, collaboration, support, effort and fortitude enabled me to cross the pain and psychological thresholds." Mr Gould also dedicated 107 of the 112 lengths to all those who have contributed to the probation service since it was created 107 years ago, as the service undergoes major changes in the next few months.

"For me, the swim was about the potential of the human spirit and its possibilities, opportunities and purpose," said the 58-year-old.

"I share great pride with thousands of dedicated probation staff across the country for the work of the probation service."

He hopes to raise more than £1,500, and has already received hundreds of pounds from other probation officers at Sandwell. Mr Gould is part of a probation team which was recently praised for lowering re-offending in the borough.

Doors open on how to find work

A YOUTH charity is opening its doors to the public to show they are helping people find a job.

The Rathbone's centre, at Newey Business Park,Tipton, is holding an open day on Friday.

The centre will showcase it learning programmes, which range from military preparation and construction to business administration, beauty and nails.

For details on the training provided email sandwell@rathboneuk.org or call 0121 522 6990 or visit www.rathboneuk.org

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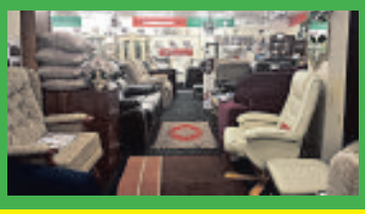

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Silentnight Miracoil Essentials double divan with 2 drawers	£629	£297

DINING ROOM	WAS	NOW
Dining chairs - assorted designs		FROM £19
Carslo White High Gloss 3 door sideboard	£549	£197
Marble console table	£449.95	£168
Solid ash bookcase	£549.95	£226
Stone International table, 4 chairs and 1 bench	£3999.75	£1628
Habufa Chester solid oak table and 6 chairs	£1999	£749
G-Plan Dining		ALL STOCK REDUCED BY 60%
Willis & Gambier Villa Cortina sideboard	£1999	£826

FLOORING	WAS	NOW
Carpets		FROM £12.99m²
Heavy Duty carpets with 10 year warranty	£39m²	£16m²
Rugs - assorted designs, sizes and colours - to clear		FROM £25
Pergo domestic extra laminate – classic plank	£24.95m²	£14.95m²

HOMEWARES	WAS	NOW
Kirsty Allsopp bedlinens - all remaining stock		SAVE 65%
Arthur Price Papaya 30 piece cutlery box set	£79	£38
Gallery Vastro Rectangular Mirror (48" x 36")	£379	£143
Table lamps – assorted designs and colours to clear		FROM £29
Denby Ovenware - to clear		ALL STOCK REDUCED BY 50%

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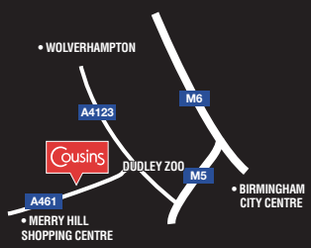

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Focus on Oldbury

Joy as roof at church is repaired

LEADERS of a 130-year-old church are celebrating after repairs were made to its once leaky roof. George Road Community Church, Oldbury, needed its roof to be replaced so it could continue offering its services.

The well-used building, built in 1884, provides a base for exercise classes, luncheon clubs and youth clubs as well as hosting Neighbourhood Watch meetings, training days and community forums.

It also offers a space for birthday parties and wedding receptions and is used by the nearby school and during elections. The overgrown burial ground has been transformed into a community garden, with a water feature made from a 100-year-old well.

Project leader June Whitehouse said: "The new roof will make the church more comfortable for the whole community and we are delighted that the project is now complete. We knew we couldn't go on much longer with the roof the way it was so it's great it's repaired now."

The roof project was supported by funding from The Veolia Environmental Trust which awarded a grant of £23,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Plans are sent in for £2m charity animal hospital

PLANS for a new £2 million animal hospital in Oldbury have been lodged by pet charity PDSA. It follows an increase in demand for their services at its current base in Quinton.

The new site on the Wolverhampton Road will be known as the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Centre for North-West Birmingham and Sandwell and will feature the latest veterinary equipment.

Report by Tom Ma-

When people arrive they will walk into a spacious two-storey waiting area,designed to be cool and well ventilated.

The rest of the site will be single storey to reduce the impact of the building on the surrounding area and will include two operating theatres, a dental theatre, six consulting rooms and staff accommodation.

The new centre will deal with around 20 consultations during the day and a further 20 during the evening and overnight.

Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough were first discussed with Sandwell Council in 2011 after the charity experienced a rise in demand for its services. A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department on behalf of the charity said: "The building will provide a vital service to the poorer communities in West Birmingham. The evidence from the existing centre, which is very congested, is conclusive proof of demand for this service.

"The site has been chosen because it is located within the community it seeks to serve and is on a main public transport corridor, thus making the site accessible by both private and public transport.

The letter goes on to say that around 30 full and part-time staff from the old centre will be kept on, safeguarding jobs locally and there will be potential for the creation of more jobs in the future.

The building has been designed to be flexible and will be built around an internal steel frame, to allow for future expansion of the facility or to accommodate changes in veterinary procedure

The patch of land, opposite Oldbury Academy, was originally owned by the council and was sold to the charity to allow proposals for the building to move forward.

Deputy Lieutenant Stewart Towe CBE watches Mayor of Sandwell, Linda Horton, raise the flag

Flying high to join in with party

A FLAG has been raised in A Black Country borough to celebrate Commonwealth Day.

A ceremony took place outside the Council House in Oldbury, attended by Sandwell Mayor and consort, Councillors Linda Horton and Roger Horton.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Stewart Towe, was also at the event last Monday, which was part of a series of similar ceremonies across the country, led by the Queen at Westminster Abbey.

Councillor Horton said: "I am very pleased that Sandwell is part of this national recognition of the importance of the Commonwealth and I am proud to be part of the official party."

The Commonwealth is made up of 53 sovereign states. The flag raising was the largest single raising in the history of the Commonwealth.

Sessions climb in popularity

CLIMBING sessions are on offer at just £1 a go this month at a new indoor climbing centre in Sandwell.

Sandwell Council and adventure activities operator Closer to the Edge are offering the Mad March deal at the Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury.

The sessions will encourage people to experience the thrill of climbing, bouldering and abseiling.

They are running on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm – 8:30 pm.

No experience is needed and Closer to the Edge will provide specialist instruction and equipment which is all included within the price.

Booking is essential as there are only 12 sessions. Visit Portway Lifestyle Centre or call 0300 012 0121.

All participants must be at least 16 years old and sessions are limited to a maximum of two per person.

Lorry crashes into bridge

A LORRY crashed into a low railway bridge in Oldbury leaving the compartment on the back of the cab bent and ripped open. The crash happened outside Sandwell and Dudley railway station at Bromford Road, at just after 9am last Tuesday.

The bridge was undamaged, and line operator London Midland said just one train was delayed. The lorry driver was not hurt.

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Apprentices brush up on their Deutsch

Billy Meldrum, Doosan Babcock's training manager, with engineering apprentices Danny Lord and Lucy Green

A GROUP of engineering apprentices from the Black Country have had a crash course in speaking German ahead of a cultural exchange.

Training experts BCTG, based in Oldbury, are taking the apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Liepzig, Germany.

Another group of apprentices will head for Rybnik, in Poland, as part of the programme. In total 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock in Tipton will get the chance to work with their European counterparts and take in some of the culture when they travel to Doosan Babcock Energy Polska and Doosan Babcock Energy Germany.

Taking care with survey

RESIDENTS who look after friends, family or neighbours are being asked to contribute to a West Midlands-wide project focusing on training opportunities for carers.

The project aims to see which training sessions, workshops and online courses are the most useful for carers.

Feedback from them will shape future training opportunities and could help to create a wider choice of courses.

Councillor Barbara McCracken, portfolio holder for social care in Walsall is working with Suzanne Joyner, head of community care, to raise awareness of the project. She said: "People are not necessarily trained to do some of the things they need to do as part of their caring role and any support they can access can help make a real difference to them. We are asking carers to take part in a survey to tell us exactly what they think of existing training opportunities."

The survey which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Carerstraining is open until May 15. It can be completed anonymously but those who give their details will be entered into a prize draw to win a £20 gift voucher for a store of their choice.

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Burglar caught by print

A father-of-two who left a fingerprint when he broke into a flat in Tipton has been placed on supervision for a year.

Liam Hadlington, 20, admitted burglary with intent to steal at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said that one of the victim's neighbours spotted two people acting suspiciously near the flat.

When the owner returned home he discovered his furniture had been moved around but nothing was missing.

Police called to investigate found the fingerprint on the television.

Hadlington, from High Street, Princes End, Tipton, was told by Recorder Tina Landale: "Despite your very poor criminal record it seems that at last you are facing up to the future and you may have turned the corner. If you breach this order it is very likely you will go straight into custody."

Superfan Neil's homage to Dexys and frontman and friend Kevin

DEXYS Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton has put the finishing touches to a book chronicling the band's history.

And for the 42-year-old, from Oldbury, it is a more personal account as he is a long-time friend of the band's mercurial frontman Kevin Rowland.

Mr Warburton first got into the band when he was eight-years-old and the very first record he bought was their 1980 chart-topper Geno.

Rowland lived in the same street as Neil, Apollo Road. But when he settled down to watch the band perform on Top of the Pops one Thursday evening his mum had a surprise for him.

He said: "We lived in Apollo Road, Oldbury. I remember sitting in front of the TV watching the band and my mum came in and saw Kevin.

"She turned around to me and said: 'He only lives up the road'. It is not often you find one of your neighbours is your favourite rock star."

Mr Warburton, who still lives in Apollo Road, eventually plucked up the courage to knock on his neighbour's door and ask for an autograph. He was invited in and given a signed photo. And the two men remain friends to this day – and met up again only last year.

Oldbury-based author Neil Warburton

Mr Warburton's book is a compilation of 15 issues of his fanzine Keep On Running, published between 1995 and 2000, along with new interviews from band members past and present including Kevin Archer and Jim Paterson.

He started putting The book, which will be launched at Oldbury's Railway Inn pub on March 22, together while out of work.

Part of the launch event will be held at the Wetherspoons pub, the Court of Requests in Church Road, between 7pm and 8pm on March 22.

And to mark the occasion Anthony O'Shaughnessy, the cover star of the band's iconic debut album Searching for the Young Soul Rebels, will be travelling from Belfast to attend.

The event will then move on to the Railway Inn, Bromford Road, at 8.30pm where the band's music will be played.

Last month it was revealed that a documentary had been made, due to be released in May, following the band's every move during a residency at London's Duke Of York's Theatre last year.

No-hoper

Called Nowhere Is Home, it features the Wednesfield-born Rowland talking about why he turned to singing.

He tells the camera: "Do you know what? I was a no-hoper. Prison was a possibility, you know, an absolute possibility for me. I left school, no qualifications, at 15. I'd come bottom of the class in several subjects."

Last year he was given an honorary degree from the University of Wolverhampton.

A close up view of the band's book

MP backs teaching campaign

A CAMPAIGN stressing the value teaching assistants bring to school classrooms has been backed by Warley MP John Spellar.

Mr Spellar has given his support to the GMB union's campaign to support teaching assistants, of which there are more than a quarter of a million working in UK classrooms.

The GMB has been running a campaign across the West Midlands to support and promote the work of teaching assistants who claim their roles are being threatened by public sector cuts. The union has delivered 1,200 cards of support to MPs across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

A GMB event in the Houses of Parliament allowed MPs to talk directly to teaching assistants about the job they do and about the importance of maintaining and supporting them in schools.

Mr Spellar said: "Teaching assistants support Sandwell kids, we must support them."

Department for Work & Pensions

Help with changes to Housing Benefit

Working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation. **Pensioners are not affected by this change.**

This change helps families who live in overcrowded accommodation or on waiting lists to find a new home. People who rent from private landlords already get Housing Benefit in this way, and this makes it fair for everyone.

If you are affected, you should have heard from your council.

There is support to help you manage these changes, including:

- thinking about downsizing or 'home swapping' to a different sized property
- finding a job or increasing your hours can make you better off
- applying to your council for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Find out more about all your options at **www.gov.uk/housing-benefit** or talk to your council.

Help at hand on benefit changes

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THERE have been changes to Housing Benefit so that working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation.

This change, known as the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy, will help families living in overcrowded accommodation and those on waiting lists to find new homes.

This system already applied to people renting privately so now all tenants are treated in the same way.

If you are affected, the amount of Housing Benefit you receive may have reduced, but there is a range of support to help you adapt to these changes and find a property that is better suited to your needs.

HomeSwap Direct is a national home-swap scheme which allows you to see details of every available social housing property, whether this is just round the corner or somewhere else in the country.

There are thousands of homes out there and moving can just be a click away.

Appropriate

To start your free and easy search, visit one of these websites:

www.homeswapper.co.uk/
www.houseexchange.org.uk/
www.abritas.co.uk/housing-options-mobility/mutual-exchange.aspx
www.locata.org.uk/

If you don't have access to the internet, speak to your landlord for help.

Swapping your home through your council can provide a simple way of finding properties in your area that are the appropriate size for you and your family. Search with your postcode at: **www.gov.uk/apply-swap-homes-council**

You can speak to your landlord to see if they have any suitable properties available, or a neighbour that could benefit from switching homes too.

Finding a job or increasing your hours can also make you financially better off and help make up the difference in rent.

Use the Benefits Adviser tool to see how you could be better off in work. Log onto **www.gov.uk/benefits-adviser**

Jobcentre Plus can help you find work, providing valuable training and work experience which can help you get back into the workplace.

You can also see thousands of job vacancies using Universal Jobmatch and create an online profile to get alerts about jobs automatically matched to your CV. Just visit: **www.gov.uk/job-search**

As well as increasing your income, you may be eligible for financial support to help with your housing costs. Speak to your council about the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme if you need more help: www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council.

Find out more about all your options at www.gov.uk/housing-benefit.

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NORMAL PRICE* £101.99 INC.VAT

Clarke 48" FARM JACK - CFJ48

• Lifting capacity 2000kg • Minimum load (for lowering) 50kg • Maximum lifting height 1090mm • Minimum height of lifting foot 152mm • Unit weight 2.7kg

CLEARANCE £32.99 EX.VAT £39.59 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £55.19 INC.VAT

Clarke SHHH AIR 30 QUIET RUN COMPRESSOR

• Ultra low noise up to 43dB. • 0.88cfm (24.9 Ltrs / min.) • 8bar (115psi) maximum working pressure • Dimensions (LWH) 220x420x390mm

CLEARANCE £49.98 EX.VAT £59.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £298.80 INC.VAT

Clarke MIG 145 NO-GAS/GAS MIG WELDER

• Power settings from 35 – 135 amps • Turbo fan cooling for greater efficiency • Uses 0.6 / 0.8mm wire • Fully variable electronic wire speed control • Thermal overload protection • Extra tough protective edging • Operates from 230V power supply.

CLEARANCE £114.99 EX.VAT £137.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £179.98 INC.VAT

Clarke DEVIL 6009 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC FAN HEATER (400V)

• Adjustable 4.5 to 9kW heat output • 9kW max. absorbed power / 400V 3phase supply • 773m³/h max. airflow rate • Encapsulated stainless steel heating element • Dimensions (DWH) 350x335x465mm / Weight 9kg

CLEARANCE £89.98 EX.VAT £107.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £167.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 12" DOVETAIL JIG

• Material width 300mm • Cuts work pieces with a thickness of 8 - 32mm • ¼" (6.35mm) cutter shank diameter • Tough steel build • Includes a ½" comb template guide and holes for bench mounting • Router not included

CLEARANCE £39.98 EX.VAT £47.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £71.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CIS100 12V CORDLESS IMPACT SCREWDRIVER

• Powerful 12V, 1.7Ah Ni-Cd battery • Max torque delivery 108Nm • Impacts per minute: 0-2900 • Speed (no load): 0-2200rpm • Supplied with carry case, Ni-Cd battery and 1 hour mains charger

CLEARANCE £24.99 EX.VAT £29.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £50.39 INC.VAT

Clarke CDP350V 16MM VARIABLE SPEED DRILL PRESS WITH LASER GUIDE

• LED rpm display • Laser guide • Depth gauge • Chuck guard • Totally enclosed fan cooled motor, 230V/550W • Precision engineering bearings, columns & tables. Tables tilt 0-45° left & right

CLEARANCE £159.98 EX.VAT £191.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £262.80 INC.VAT

Clarke JUMP START 1010

• Starts petrol and diesel engines up to 3 litres • Starting boost output of 400A and Peak output of 900A • Built in work light

CLEARANCE £64.99 EX.VAT £77.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £101.99 INC.VAT

Clarke MILL HEAD (TO SUIT CL250M) - CL251MH

• 150W, 230v motor • Variable speed 100 - 1300rpm (no load) • Drill chuck capacity 10mm • Spindle travel 30mm, T slot 8mm

CLEARANCE £159.00 EX.VAT £190.80 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £298.80 INC.VAT

Clarke LIGHTWEIGHT 400W SDS+ ROTARY HAMMER DRILL - CON400RHD

CLEARANCE £28.99 EX.VAT £34.79 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £47.98 INC.VAT

• High impact (0-6600 blows per minute, impact energy: 1.5J) • 400W Motor - 230V - 50hz • Max. Drill Capacity: 30mm (Wood), 10mm (Steel) & 10mm (Concrete) • Variable Speed

Clarke 4 STROKE PETROL GENERATOR - G1200

• Air cooled 4 stroke petrol engine - 1100W maximum power output / 1000W continuous output • 12V battery charging facility (12V DC @ 8.3 amps) • Standard 230V (13 amp) 3 pin socket • Quiet running - 68dBA at 7m (1/4 load)

CLEARANCE £119.98 EX.VAT £143.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £191.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 4 DRAWER MOBILE CABINET - CC600P

• Four drawer cabinet for safe, secure storage of workshop equipment • Dims (LxWxH) 475x475x690mm

CLEARANCE £64.99 EX.VAT £77.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £143.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 720W PETROL GENERATOR - G720

• 720W maximum power output • 12V battery charging facility • Air cooled 2 stroke engine • 6.5 running hours @ 3/4 load • 230V AC (13 amp) socket • Anti-vibration rubber feet, carry handle & recoil starter • Dimensions (LWH): 380x312x362mm • Weight 17kg

CLEARANCE £62.99 EX.VAT £75.59 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £107.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CAST IRON STOVE -BARREL

CLEARANCE £154.99 EX.VAT £185.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £250.80 INC.VAT

• Wood and coal burning stove for efficient heating • 20,000Btu heat output • Dims (WDH) 410x410x505mm

Clarke CHAMP 110V COMPRESSOR

CLEARANCE £129.98 EX.VAT £155.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £251.98 INC.VAT

• 7.6 cfm air displacement • 2.4 litre air receiver • 2hp, 110V, 1ph motor •10 Bar (145 psi) maximum working pressure • Dimensions (LWH): 510x270x400mm

Clarke ½" SQUARE DRIVE AIR IMPACT WRENCH - CAT23C

• Max torque 230ft/lb • Operating pressure 6.2bar • Average air consumption 4cfm • Requires minimum 10mm bore air hose

CLEARANCE £18.99 EX.VAT £22.79 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £35.98 INC.VAT

Clarke" AIR ANGLE POLISHER - CAT54

• Operating pressure 6.2bar • Air consumption 5cfm • Maximum speed 2,500rpm • Pad size 7" (180mm) Ø • With side handle

CLEARANCE £39.98 EX.VAT £47.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £77.99 INC.VAT

Clarke NO-GAS / GASMIG WELDER - MIG 180

• Power settings from 40 – 160 amps. Welds mild steel 5mm thickness. • Turbo fan cooling for greater efficiency. • Uses 0.6 / 0.8mm wire • Fully variable electronic wire speed control • Operates from 230V power supply.

CLEARANCE £129.98 EX.VAT £155.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £215.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CHT301 19 PIECE TAP & DIE SET

• 5 Tap & Die sets from 1/4"-28 to 1/2"-20 • 1" OD split dies *Supplied with tap wrench, die handle, T-handle tap wrench & SAE screw pitch gauge. • All neatly presented in a metal storage case.

CLEARANCE £10.99 EX.VAT £13.19 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £20.39 INC.VAT

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Radio Robin 2 to get a preview

THE Robin 2 in Bilston which features many folk, blues and acoustic artists has added a radio station to its website — Robin 2 Radio The station can accessed through the club's homepage, just click on the icon. It's provided through the club's site partners DeliRadio, and exclusively features artistes who perform at the Bilston club.

The internet radio station has just been created, so it is limited at the moment but will build up over coming weeks and will be an excellent way to preview forthcoming acts.

On the back of their new album folk/rockers Oysterband will be playing the venue tonight supported by Rumours of Spring. Tickets £16, doors open 7.30pm.

Sound of young and old America

THERE are some exciting gigs over the next few days for R&B and pop fans.

On Saturday Miami's Jason Derulo holds court at the NIA. Motown will be heard when The Four Tops and The Temptations are joined by Freda Payne at the NIA on Sunday.

Chart-topping Canadian rapper Drake is at the NIA tonight and tomorrow,while The Wanted will be Glad You Came at the LG Arena tonight, which also the night Gabrielle continues her comeback at Birmingham Town Hall.

Also tonight, The Big Reunion's 911 are at The Institute in Birmingham.

Opera project on day that war came to the Black Country

THE NIGHT the horrors of the First World War came to the Black Country will be recalled in a unique community opera, Zeppelin Dreams, with three performances at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight and tomorrow.

Part of the theatre's programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war, this production looks at the evening in 1916 when one of the largest German airships ever built got lost in the fog on the way to attack Liverpool's docks and dropped its bombs on the Black Country instead, killing 35 people.

More later died of their injuries. The victims included three generations of one family in Tipton, a courting couple in Bradley and Walsall's mayoress.

This community co-production with English Touring Opera includes an evening performance tonight (Thursday) and two performances tomorrow.

Tickets cost £7.50, from the website at www.grandtheatre.info, by phone on 01902 429212, or in person at the box office in Lichfield Street.

The Grand hosts Lesley Joseph in naughty girls' night out musical Hot Flush on Saturday.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia present a selection of ballets at the Grand starting with Sleeping Beauty on Sunday at 4pm. There are performances of Giselle (Monday, 7.30pm) and Swan Lake (Tuesday, 2.30 and 7.30pm).

Aldersley pupils in the show

Nostalgic musical Dreamboats And Petticoats, featuring hits from the early 1960s and written by Birds Of A Feather team Marks and Gran, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Another community opera venture, Mack The Knife musical Brecht and Weill's The Threepenny Opera, is staged at Birmingham Rep from March 27 to April 12.

Musical will rain supreme

FRESH from its success in London's West End, the hit revival of Singin' In The Rain splashes into Birmingham this week.

Set in the golden age of Hollywood, this brolly twirling classic will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, April 5. Extra performances have been added due to popular demand.

The show features Maxwell Caulfield as studio boss RF Simpson, Faye Tozer as starlet Lina Lamont and James Leece as silent movie star Don Lockwood — and a downpour on stage! Get ready for such songs as Make 'Em Laugh, Good Morning and, of course, Singin' In the Rain. If sitting in the front row, better wear a sowester.

Tickets are priced £16 to £45, available online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or on 0844 338 5000.

Turn your umbrella upside down to enjoy Singin' In The Rain at the Hippodrome

NME tour will showcase the best

A SHOWCASE for three of the best new bands will be headlined by one of New York's finest groups of recent years when the NME Awards Tour 2014 comes to Birmingham next week.

Tuesday's gig has switched from the O2 Academy to Digbeth's Institute, featuring Liverpool's Circa Waves, Brighton garage rock duo Royal Blood and Northampton psychedelic hipsters Temples, whilst NYC's Interpol top the bill.

Other rock gigs include Irish outfit Kodaline at the O2 Academy tonight and Franz Ferdinand at the same venue tomorrow. Punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers are at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow and The Stranglers are at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

Oscillators and synths celebrated

MASTERS of moody electronica Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have been realising their cinematic ambitions via the Tales Of Us film with director Lisa Gunning and a live performance recently beamed to the nation's cinema screens. Goldfrapp will be in the flesh at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, March 26.

The Radiophonic Workshop — famed for the Doctor Who theme — come to Birmingham on their first live tour. The Regeneration Tour includes a tribute to fellow electronic music pioneer Delia Derbyshire at the Town Hall on Monday.

star extra TRAVEL

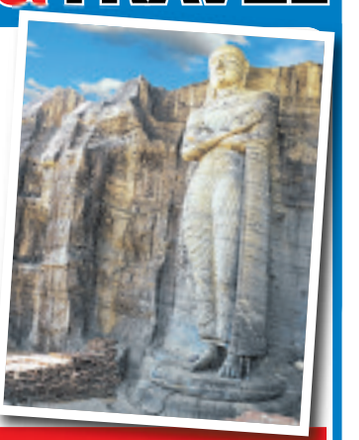
Sri Lanka

Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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CHOICE

Tom Jones

The Voice UK
BBC1, 6.45pm
As much as we love the BBC's answer to The X Factor, at times you need the stamina of Davina McCall to sit through an entire episode, so get plenty of cushions and snacks for this, the first live round of the singing contest. The brilliant Emma Willis and Marvin Humes introduce the action as the remaining dozen acts fight it out for a place in the semi-final. After three acts in each team have performed, Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson will choose one act to go straight through to the next stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Davina: Beyond Breaking Point. (R) **3.45** Reflex. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.25** Sport Relief: The Best Bits.

6.45 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final.

8.40 The National Lottery Live. Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball, with music by Little Mix.

8.50 The Voice UK Results. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson lose one act each, leaving them with just two for next week's semi-final.

9.25 Casualty. Ethan's conscience is tested when an activist asks him to hide his secrets, while Rita and Zoe help a desperate prisoner repair his relationship with his mother.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Cardiff City v Liverpool at the Cardiff City Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.05 The Football League Show. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **6.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **9.15** Life on Earth. (R) **10.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **1.00** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. **1.05** Gregory Peck: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35 Film:** Spellbound. (1945) **3.25** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R) **4.00 Film:** Notorious. (1946) **5.40** Flog It! Trade Secrets.

6.40 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood celebrates the comedy. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Walker is accused of treason. (R)

8.00 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. Glenda Jackson dons a ballgown to bring a touch of class to proceedings.

8.30 The Plantagenets. Robert Bartlett tells the story of England's longest-ruling royal dynasty, beginning by examining how Henry II forged an empire after ascending the throne in 1154. (R)

9.30 QI XL. Extended edition.

10.15 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. The comedian explores more themes.

10.45 Glasgow: Big Night Out. The city through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R)

11.45 Film: Savage Grace. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Julianne Moore.

1.15 Film: The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.00** The Chase. (R) **1.00** The Unforgettable Noele Gordon. (R) **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.30 Film:** Kindergarten Cop. (1990) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals. Harry Hill takes an alphabetical look at videos from the animal kingdom, and targets merry mishaps pertaining to all 26 letters.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo welcome presenter Christine Bleakley, and are assisted in their duties by guest announcers the Muppets. Little Ant and Dec also meet Samuel L Jackson and Scarlett Johansson.

8.25 The Cube. A personal trainer tackles a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.25 The Americans. Elizabeth receives a distress signal, and Philip tries to work out what the consequences of their last operation will be for their family.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renee Zellweger.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.45** How I Met Your Mother. **11.15** How I Met Your Mother. **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Boe Olaleye hosts the final dinner party in north London. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. The team investigates an attack on students at SHIELD's academy of science and technology, while Coulson and May meet a former agent who reveals startling information about Skye. (R)

8.00 Hostages. Duncan locks the Sanders family in a room for the day while he and his team head to New York to eliminate the snipers targeting President Kincaid. Starring Toni Collette.

9.00 Film: Rush Hour 3. (2007) An assassination attempt sets mismatched detectives Lee and Carter off on a mission to take on Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

10.40 Film: Daredevil. (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Ben Affleck.

12.40 Film: Election. (1999) **2.25** The Good Wife. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.30** It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal. **3.45 Film:** Stone Cold. (2005) Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck. **5.30 Film:** Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.50 Longmire. New series. Crime drama, starring Robert Taylor as Wyoming sheriff Walt Longmire. Returning to duty after the death of his wife, Walt is drawn into a murder investigation.

7.40 NCIS. A blind man unwittingly photographs evidence of a murder, leading Jethro and the team to the corpse of a petty officer who was stabbed with a knife left at the scene. (R)

8.35 NCIS. Gibbs is made acting director while Jenny is attending an overseas conference, but decides to ignore his duties and instead investigate the murder of a man found dead in a taxi. (R)

9.25 5 News Weekend.

9.30 Live International Boxing. Kid Galahad v Sergio Prado, plus the two remaining quarter-finals in the light-heavyweight Maxi Nutrition Knockout tournament, all from Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Drive-By Slayers: Born to Kill? (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who **8.20** Top Gear: Burma Special **9.25 Film:** Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life (2003) **11.10** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.50** The Genius of David Bowie **11.50** Lou Reed Remembered

ITV2
3.25 Britain's Got More Talent: Singers & Dancers **4.25 Film:** Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **6.15 Film:** About a Boy (2002) **8.15 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Educating Joey Essex

ITV3
3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Inspector Morse **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
3.15 Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.15 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.55** Hornblower. Conclusion of the seafaring adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. Last in the series. **10.00 Film:** Carlito's Way (1993)

E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother **5.00** 2 Broke Girls **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Lake Placid (1999) **10.40** Rude Tube **11.45** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
2.55 Carry On Behind (1975) **4.40** Escape to Victory (1981) **7.00** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **9.00** Priest (2011) **10.45** Alien 3 (1992)

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CHOICE

Prince Harry

Harry's South Pole Heroes
ITV, 8pm

Prince Harry and his band of heroes are certainly braver than us – in fact watching him and the wounded servicemen and women from the comfort of our armchair with a warm cup of coffee leaves us suitably ashamed of ourselves. In this episode, the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013 gets under way, and the teams prepare to ski for nine hours a day, hauling 80 kilos of kit in temperatures as low as -40C. But no amount of training could have prepared them for the frostbite, sores and altitude sickness.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** The Sport Relief Games Show. **3.15** Alex Against the Rock. **3.45** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 Blandings. Connie plays matchmaker.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison heads to the beaches of Norfolk, which suffered its biggest storm surge in 60 years in December. She also drops in at the RSPB's reserve in Snettisham. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Exeter Cathedral, where items include a table apparently used by Bonnie Prince Charlie and artwork painted by Edward VII as a child.

9.00 The Musketeers. The quartet escort the queen to a forest pool renowned for its powers of fertility – but when an assassin strikes they escape to a convent, where Aramis meets a face from the past.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton.

11.25 Film: Butterfly on a Wheel. (2007) Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Angels One Five. (1953) **7.35** Mountain. (R) **8.35** Countryfile; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.15** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.15** Ex-S. **2.45 Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Collectaholics. (R)

6.00 The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers help rebuild an early traction engine before learning how it revolutionised farming, and restore a rare barge once used to transport coal on Britain's canals. (R)

7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. The team splits up to search for tigers. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Lambing Live: Farming Familes. New series. Kate Humble and Adam Henson revisit people featured in previous series.

9.00 Louis Theroux's LA Stories: City of Dogs. New series. Different aspects of Los Angeles, beginning with the city's neglected and feral dogs.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Royals. Another selection of material from the show's archives. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. Fleming remains determined to prove Denton had a role in the ambush. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Film: London River. (2009) Drama, with Brenda Blethyn.

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** Silk. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** The Unforgettable Dudley Moore. (R) **12.05** Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) **2.00** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **2.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.10** River Monsters. (R) **4.15 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Harry's South Pole Heroes. Part two of two. Prince Harry embarks on his expedition in the Antarctic with four injured British soldiers as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry is desperate to clear his name. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 You Saw Them Here First. With Patsy Kensit, Mark Benton, David Threlfall, Tony Robinson and Kimberley Walsh. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Freesports on 4. **7.30** Challenge Wanaka Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** How I Met Your Mother. **3.05** How I Met Your Mother. **3.35** The Simpsons. (R) **4.05** The Simpsons. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. **5.40** Channel 4 News.

6.10 Film: Rio. (2011) Premiere. A domesticated bird gets lost in Rio de Janeiro, and has to learn to fly to get back to his owner. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway.

8.00 The Million Pound Necklace: Inside Boodles. Documentary following exclusive jewellers Boodles, as they launch their most expensive collection yet, created from a set of rare Colombian emeralds.

9.00 Film: The Tourist. (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

10.55 Film: Dogma. (1999) A lapsed Catholic must stop two fallen angels returning to Heaven or it will mean the end of the world. Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino.

1.20 The Good Wife. (R) **2.05** The Hotel. (R) **3.00** Secret Removers. A husband arranges a surprise for his wife. (R) **4.00** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Mio Mao. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.50 Film:** Arthur and the Invisibles. (2006) **12.30 Film:** Hoodwinked. (2005) **2.05 Film:** Zoom. (2006) **3.50 Film:** The Witches. (1990) **5.35** 5 News Weekend. **5.40 Film:** The Great Escape. (1963)

9.00 The First Great Escape. Documentary examining an escape by British officers from the Holzminden PoW camp in July 1918 that inspired the famous breakout from Stalag Luft III in March 1944.

10.00 The Great Escape: Revealed. The true story of the famous PoW breakout.

11.00 Film: A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based drama recreating a Second World War campaign to capture a series of strategically important bridges. Starring Dirk Bogarde.

2.25 SuperCasino. **3.10** Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.55** The Voice UK Results **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bluestone 42 **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Magnificent Machines: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **8.00** Mark Lawson talks to Joanna Trollope **9.00** Martin Amis' England **10.00** Some Football Managers with Jokes **10.30 Film:** You Will Be My Son (2011)

ITV2
2.15 Film: Honey (2003) **4.10** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.40 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.50 Film:** Whip It (2009) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Party Wright Around the World **11.50** The Big Reunion 2014

ITV3
3.40 Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00 Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **11.15** Cracker

ITV4
3.05 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **6.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Get Carter (1971) **11.20** Hell on Wheels

E4
3.30 The Tomorrow People **4.30** Troy: Best Bits **5.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Dr Dolittle (1998) **9.40** The Big Bang Theory **10.10** How I Met Your Mother **10.40** My Mad Fat Diary **11.45** Rules of Engagement

Film4
2.35 Only You (1994) **4.45** 27 Dresses (2008) **6.55** The Truman Show (1998) **9.00** This Is England (2006) **11.05** Silent House (2011)

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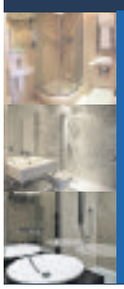

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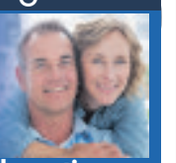

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Film Choices

MONDAY
The Man Behind the Gun, Channel 4, 1pm
A soldier poses as a schoolteacher on a mission to root out a band of insurrectionists who are plotting to break away from the Union and reintroduce slavery. Before long, he starts to fall for a fellow teacher, but suspects his rival for her affection may be involved with the militants. Western, starring Randolph Scott. (1953)

TUESDAY
Back to You and Me, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A doctor returns home after many years for a school reunion and tries to rebuild her relationship with her estranged mother, whom she has not seen since her father's death. The experience proves both enlightening and surprising, as she discovers her childhood sweetheart is now a widower, and a dark secret is revealed. Drama, starring Lisa Hartman Black, Dale Midkiff and Rue McClanahan. (2005)

WEDNESDAY
Murder on the 13th Floor, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair with their live-in nanny and plans revenge. The childminder discovers she and the couple's son have been locked in their 13th-floor apartment along with two hitmen hired to kill her. Thriller, starring Tessa Thompson. (2012)

Scent of a Woman, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Channel 4, 12am
Two Americans on a break in Spain encounter a seductive painter, who invites them to spend time with him at his home in Oviedo. Though the more timid of the pair is initially reluctant, her free-spirited friend persuades her to come along, resulting in a series of romantic encounters and an explosive experience with the artist's ex-wife. Woody Allen's comedy, with Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. (2008)

THURSDAY
My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm
Kate works in a home for disadvantaged children and longs for kids of her own, but is unable to conceive. When her best friend is murdered, Kate adopts her two youngsters, but it is not long before those around her question whether she had a hand in their mother's death to gain the family she always wanted. Drama, starring Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. (2007)

FRIDAY
Scent of a Woman, ITV, 10.35pm
A blind, hard-drinking war veteran pays a timid college student to accompany him on a weekend break in the big city, where he plans to make the most of life. However, the youngster is shocked to learn that his new friend plans to kill himself. Comedy drama, starring an Oscar-winning Al Pacino. (1992)

Pick of the Week

New series will prove to be far from child's play

Praise be – the Reverend Adam Smallbone is back at last. Two years is a long time between sermons – here's hoping TV's best-loved vicar has spent that time away from our screens coming up with inspiring new subjects and honing his delivery.

Let's face it, his parish could use a few more devotees – inner-city London was always going to be a tough gig, and despite his best efforts, Adam hasn't really managed to win over the locals, unless you count unstable Mick, alcoholic lost soul Colin and lovesick Adoha.

They're all back for this third series, which Tom Hollander, who co-created the sitcom with writer James Wood, says was a dream to make.

"I found it very comforting and reassuring and it's very lovely to do something that you have done before which people have enjoyed," he remarks. "There was none of the stress you normally have playing a new part where you go, 'Oh, I wonder if it works if I do this or if I do that' whereas, because we've done two series there's a relaxation of putting on a, you know, favourite old cardigan or something."

Also back is Olivia Colman. She may have become Britain's premier TV actress since the last run of Rev was aired, thanks to performances in Broadchurch, Run, Accused and The Thirteenth Tale, but she found time in her hectic diary for this.

"There's something comforting about knowing we're back because people liked it, so we're doing something right," she says. "It's a shame you have to do anything on the first day. It'd be nice if it was a write-off because you're just chatting and catching up. It's lovely."

There's about to be a new addition to the couple's lives when we meet him again – Alex gives birth to their long-awaited first child, a girl, in dramatic circumstances.

"The baby belongs to the Parish suddenly," explains Colman. "So, everyone who is knocking on the door anyway is now also knocking on the door to look after the baby, which is very irritating to Alex."

There's also little time for paternity leave, because Adam's parish duties continue to weigh heavy on him. In the first episode, he joins forces with an Imam in an attempt to improve the local community, but is left wondering if his new colleague has a hidden agenda.

Also giving poor Adam a headache are the new Area Dean and Diocesan secretary who seem to have big but destructive plans for St Saviour's.

Kayvan Novak, Joanna Scanlan and Vicki Pepperdine guest star as the newcomers, and the general consensus of opinion from Hollander and Colman is that they're "brilliant".

Colman perhaps sums up Rev's appeal best when she describes it as: "well-written, beautiful and the people are loveable and flawed. It's got a soft underbelly and a humility which is easy to love."

And long may that continue.

Olivia Colman and Tom Hollander star in Rev, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
The Widower
ITV, 9pm
Watching a drama based on a true story can be an odd experience. Chances are you already know what the outcome is, so where does the tension come from? Thankfully, the screenplay for this three-parter was penned by Bafta-winner Jeff Pope, who's an expert at turning real cases into gripping drama by making viewers wonder how characters will get out of certain situations – or when they're going to be caught. In this second episode, Malcolm Webster is now settled back in Scotland with his second wife Felicity and their son. He's still plotting to murder her, and after his first scheme is thwarted, comes up with a new plan...

My Spiral into Debt Hell
Channel 5, 9pm
It seems everywhere you turn these days a payday loan company is trying to flog you their services with another gimmicky advert. However, after watching this powerful documentary, even if you were slightly tempted before, you'll think again. Household debt is at record levels and this programme meets people who have suffered financial disaster – and it makes for shocking viewing. Among them is Debra from County Durham who thought it would be simple enough to borrow £500 for a computer – the reality was that her loan would turn into a 10-year nightmare and end up costing her £88,000 as well as her home. Plus, a city boy who's paying the price for his lavish lifestyle, and a man who blames his bank for his £42,000 debt.

TUESDAY
The Missing
Channel 4, 10pm
It's a frightening statistic, but every two minutes, someone in Britain goes missing. Fortunately, the majority are found again within 48 hours, but 2,000 a year simply vanish, leaving a host of unanswered questions behind. This moving documentary meets three families who have had to deal with the disappearance of a loved one – a brother, a husband, and a mother. In all three cases, it was completely out-of-character for the missing person to have simply left without contacting anyone, and the police are as baffled as everyone else. The programme finds that the friends and relatives often feel as if they are in limbo, while some have gone to extraordinarylengths to try to bring the missing person home again.

WEDNESDAY
Big Star's Little Star
ITV, 8pm
Don't ever work with children or animals – that's the golden rule in telly, they say, as no-one likes unpredictability. But the leading lights behind this superb series understand that actually, it's the little ones who make the best television – because of their unpredictability. For the producers behind this game show, the youth are comedy gold, as Stephen Mulhern grills them about their celebrity parents and hopes they will spill their deepest secrets. First up, are sporting stars (and they are good sports for putting themselves through this) 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Ben Cohen, 2000 Olympic champion in the heptathlon Denise Lewis and footballer Neil 'Razor' Ruddock. A few laughs at the celebs' expense all in the name of charity never hurt anyone…

MasterChef
BBC1, 9pm
For those of us who struggle to recognise one end of a spatula from the other, the Beeb's signature culinary effort has kept us entertained for years. But now that MasterChef has hit its tenth series, we're left with little choice but to sit up and learn a thing or two, as John Torode and Gregg Wallace return with a new batch of amateur cooks keen to prove their worth. The first six hopefuls take on a new challenge as they prepare their Calling Card, a dish which showcases their talent. But the group are soon whittled down, and the decision lies with John and Gregg as to who will reach the quarter-final.

Masterchef, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Salting the Battlefield
BBC2, 9pm
Ooh, BBC2, you're spoiling us! Last week viewers were treated to Turks & Caicos, the eagerly awaited second part of David Hare's trilogy of dramas about British agent Johnny Worricker. Hats off to the casting genius who teamed up Bill Nighy and Christopher Walken for that one. Now here's the final instalment of Worricker's story although, disappointingly, it's minus the wonderful Walken. This time, Worricker and Margaret Tyrrell are on the run across Europe, with MI5 snapping at their heels. Neither of them had expected life in exile to be so difficult, so Worricker makes a decision that will change his life forever – it's time to confront the all-powerful Prime Minister, Alec Beasley. Only one man can win their battle of wits – but which one?

FRIDAY
A Very British Renaissance
BBC2, 9.30pm
If the latest edition of this documentary is anything to go by, Elizabethan England was an exciting place to be. The country had cut its ties with Catholic Europe, and was now fervently Protestant – at least on the surface. Poets were writing in codes, while art and architecture conveyed secret meanings via mysterious symbols. Dazzling works were also created by Elizabethans who suddenly felt confident thanks to their nation's standing in the world. Among the treasures showcased here by presenter James Fox are exquisite miniatures painted by Nicholas Hilliard, and the earliest surviving example of a globe, created by Emery Molyneux.

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Brain Gym

No.265

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16	19	23	1	■	25	4	9	10	23	19	15	12
26	■	8	■	■	4	■	■	14	■	23	■	4
21	■	26	4 U	16 S	12	20	6	8	■	9	■	21
4	16	1	■	■	■	7	■	■	11	10	6	1
9	■	4	■	16	11	10	5	■	■	15	■	1
■	19	24	20	17	■	6	■	22	21	20	13	15
■	■	■	■	10	■	19	■	19	■	■	■	■
9	19	16	1	6	■	12	■	18	10	15	22	■
1	■	8	■	■	16	10	18	1	■	10	■	5
23	20	16	16	■	■	20	■	■	■	26	11	10
10	■	12	■	5	19	15	19	26	11	1	■	3
1	■	1	■	19	■	■	10	■	■	23	■	4
2	19	24	10	23	10	19	23	■	11	8	5	1

1	14
2	15
3	16 S
4 U	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 G	2 Y	3 M	4 L	5 I	6 T	7 Q	8 P	9 F	10 C	11 J	12 X	13 R
14 E	15 U	16 Z	17 O	18 K	19 A	20 D	21 W	22 B	23 H	24 S	25 V	26 N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He decides to make a rarebit (7)
7. Soft melodies for couples (5)
9. Appears to make sound joints (5)
10. He's nice and foreign (7)
12. Intelligence in the making (11)
14. It won't keep you fully occupied (4-4,3)
18. One needs a couple of rings to get this number (7)
19. Turner writes articles in French and English (5)
21. Separate verse form (5)
22. His initial confusion was amusing (7)

Down

1. In a small way you'll find me prepared to fight (5)
2. He may fly from Marian (6)
3. Carve a name, we hear (3)
4. Edible wood? (6)
5. Don't stop, although a person's upset (5,2)
8. My niche, a cleft in a cliff? (7)
11. A fir-cone, perhaps, seen in the wood (7)
13. Greetings that affect us least (7)
15. I tried a more orderly arrangement (6)
16. A speaker who is skilled at splitting alternatives (6)
17. What he does is appropriate (5)
20. Fit for a little physical training (3)

	1	■	2	■	3	■	■	■	4	■	5	■
6							■	7				
■		■		■		■	8	■		■		■
9					■	10						
■		■			■	11	■		■		■	■
■	■	12										
■	13	■	■	■		■		■	■	■		■
14			15						16		■	■
■		■		■		■		■		■	17	
18							■	19				
■		■		■		■	20	■		■		■
21					■	22						
■		■		■	■	■		■		■		

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Watery (7)
7. Narrative (5)
9. Devoutness (5)
10. Advent (7)
12. Incitement (11)
14. Disbelief (11)
18. Clearness (7)
19. Amusing (5)
21. Confuse (5)
22. Aid (7)

Down

1. Fit out (5)
2. Improved (6)
3. Owing (3)
4. Rigorous (6)
5. Producer (7)
8. Small thorn (7)
11. Greed (7)
13. Contain (7)
15. Seldom (6)
16. Three times (6)
17. Mock (5)
20. Shed (3)

Sudoku

	1	3			6		2	
8	7		5		4			6
				8		1		
9	5		1					
	8	4		3		7	6	
					5		1	9
				6				
	9	8	4		7		3	1
	2					6	7	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	3	1	9	8	2	5	4
4	9	2	3	6	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	2	4	7	6	3	9
5	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	1
9	1	6	5	3	2	8	4	7
3	2	7	4	8	1	5	9	6
1	3	9	6	2	4	7	8	5
6	8	4	7	5	3	9	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	9	4	6	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Detonation; 7 Aroma; 8 Toddler; 10 Long shot; 11 Harp; 13 Recipe; 15 Damsel; 17 Aces; 18 Reserved; 21 Earnest; 22 Dense; 23 By and large. Down: 1 Drown; 2 Transept; 3 Notion; 4 To-do; 5 Orleans; 6 Tailor-made; 9 Rope ladder; 12 Lavender; 14 Clearly; 16 Dental; 19 Venue; 20 Lean. QUICK - Across: 1 Particular; 7 Aired; 8 Special; 10 Dismayed; 11 Ring; 13 Employ; 15 Street; 17 Drop; 18 Well-do-to; 21 Diploma; 22 Avers; 23 Prospectus. Down: 1 Parts; 2 Radiator; 3 Instep; 4 Used; 5 Asinine; 6 Hard-headed; 9 Lighthouse; 12 Stalwart; 14 Prosper; 16 Relate; 19 Omens; 20 Toss.

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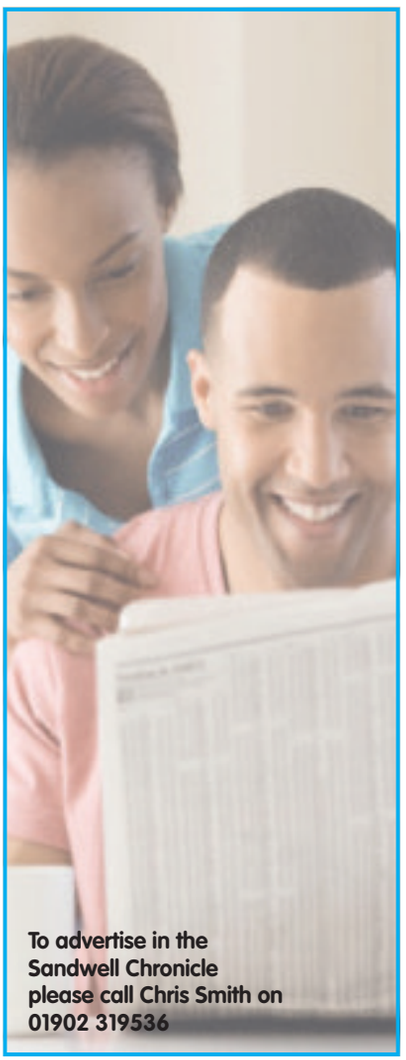

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PLEASE HELP ME FIND TOBY
Missing since Sunday 16th Feb

Toby, my black and white cat, has been missing from the Bearwood area since 16th February. He looks like the 'Felix' cat, but with a black smudge on his nose, with one white front leg and one black. He is only 16 months old and was not wearing a collar.
So, if you are feeding a cat, or have seen a stray cat who matches his description, can you please let me know on 07733 447153.

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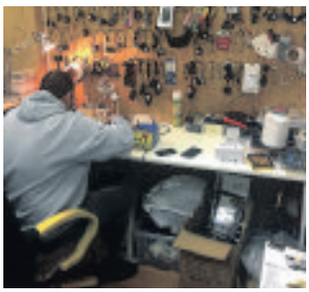
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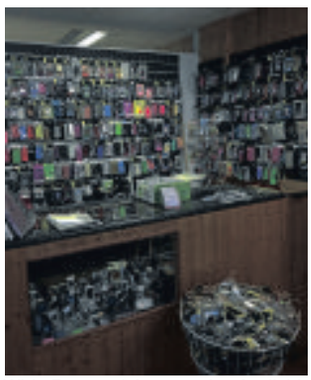
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From busking to the big time

by Danny Farragher

IT does sound a little like a script from a musical for Exeter-based duo Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin who were "discovered" busking as part of Sidmouth Folk Week.

Fast forward a few years to The Royal Albert Hall and they are being handed the Radio2 Folk Award for best duo.

"I think winning the best duo folk award is probably the pinnacle of what we have done so far," said Henry . "It was a shock really.".

So what is the real story behind Steve Knightley of band Show of Hands finding them busking, did he really come across the duo by chance?

"Yes it was really," explains Henry. "Obviously geographically it was likely to happen because we live quite close to each other, but it was at Sidmouth that he spotted us busking on the sea front.

Cathedral

"Steve contacted me and said they had about three openings on their cathedral tour. The biggest one we did was Bath at Wells Cathedral, which was in front of about 800 people so we were straight in at the deep end. From there they asked us to join them on their spring tour the next year so we did another 12 concerts with them. It was a big learning curve for us."

The duo who are an item, should you be wondering, both have an impressive musical track record with Martin being encouraged from an early age to follow her musical leanings while Henry has travelled to Asia to study classical Indian music.

With being both a working couple as well as traversing the North South divide (Hannah is from Devon and Phillip Lancashire) do they work well together? Henry has little doubt about it.

"Well I am very sarcastic and Helen is very well spoken so I think it is quite a good dynamic on stage, we have a good laugh. Helen brings a lot of West Country stuff to the act.

"We are writing really well together these days and with each album we find new approaches to what we are writing and so the quality of our writing is improving."

If you go by their latest collaboration which produced their acclaimed and second album Mynd then the team work seems to be paying off.

Has all the new recognition, the award, the successful second album changed their horizons or ambitions?

"I suppose it's given us a nice boost of confidence and hope for the future," admits Martin.

Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin are at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham B14 7SA on March 30. Call 0121 443 4725. Doors open 7.30pm and tickets are £10.

Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin who won the Radio2 Folk Award for best duo

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HOME INTERIORS

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Local lad Dave Stevens is easily recognisable and his van is very well known in the local area having been in the carpet fitting business for many, many years. They offer all of their clients a free no obligation measuring service and will also offer a pattern book delivered to your door to allow you to choose the right carpet for your home.

Dave urges any prospective client to visit the showroom to 'touch and feel' samples and adds that carpet is available from £2.99sq yard and underlay from £1.50 per sq yard. Fitting starts from £20 per room and all waste and old carpets are removed as part of the service.

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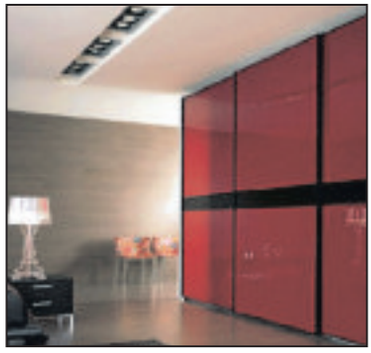

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Based in the heart of Tipton, West Midlands Upholstery is a family run business established since 2004, offering the personal touch to its customers.

Owners Steve and Alison pride themselves on offering Bespoke made to measure chairs and suites at very affordable prices. The company offer a wide range of variety of models ranging from the contemporary to traditional and also offer a re-upholstery service to spruce up your favourite chair. Clients should call in to discuss their needs, safe in the knowledge that there is no sales pressure and that the friendly team will do everything they can to make your shopping experience as pleasant as possible. As an added incentive they offer free delivery in the Black Country area.

The company also offer new foam seating, footstools and chair pads and offer 10% off ex -display models on a Monday.

Unit 17, Eclipse Trading Estate, Sedgley Road West, Tipton, DY4 8DQ. Tel: 0121 520 4500

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They have over a hundred fireplaces on display including wood, marble, along with the latest trend in solid fuel stoves. Customers will also have the peace of mind that all of its fitters are gas safe registered.

Owner, Mike is celebrating his second year since taking over the company and has over 7 years gas fitting experience.

High Street, Princes End, Tipton, DY4 9JF. Tel: 0121 557 3111

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Capricorn Interiors has been trading in oldbury for over 8 years and in that time built a loyal customer base. We supply suites and beds mostly made in the UK to a very high standard and all supplied with a guarantee. We do factory assembled wardrobes, dining room furniture, living room furniture and carpets as well as statues and columns. . As a specialist in statues and columns customers have travelled to make their purchase. In these tough times we also do pay down scheme where a customer can pay for their purchase over a few weeks and once paid we deliver or they can collect. Why not come and see what we can offer you. Fast delivery available on all purchases. Carpets can be fitted in days.

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Biddle and Webb Auctioneers, Birmingham would like to invite you to their free valuation event on Saturday 29th March from 9am to 2pm. Wine, fine arts, furniture from near and far all welcome. For example, miniatures, despite their size, they demonstrate some of the finest and most collectable items on the art market. Or Ruskin Pottery, made locally at Smethwick from 1898 to 1935 world famous for their unique glazes. From our local roots to the international market we sell wines from all over the world four times a year in our specialist sales

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Established in 1963 and originally based at no.10 Birmingham Street Mr Whitehouse took over from his parents when the business moved to its current address in 1963.

Over the years the business has changed with the times, staying with traditional dry cleaning but also specialising in certain areas such as horse rug dry cleaning and re-proofing.

Mr Whitehouse is also keen to point out lots of other aspects of the business, including trophy and medal engraving, as well as name tags for your cat or dog.

To enhance the business even further Mr Whitehouse has just begun T-shirt printing and can even arrange small signs for business'.

15 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4DT. Tel: 0121 552 2439

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196 Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, B68 8LS. Tel: 0121 552 3215

Tipton Sports & Social Club

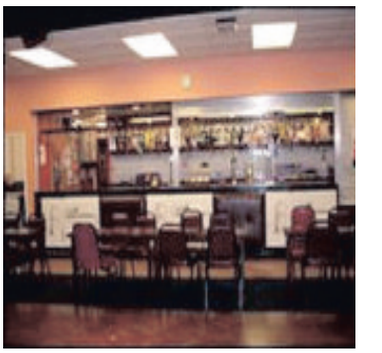
Founded in the summer of 1964 Tipton Sports and Social club secretary Trevor Pearce is keen to promote the clubs function room as an ideal wedding venue within the region.

The room is available for private hire and seats 150 guests, with a fully licensed bar and also offers catering and entertainment packages.

Ideally placed right by the Coneygree playing fields in Tipton, the club is in a perfect location, close to all transport links. For all enquiries please contact Trevor and the team who are more than willing to help make that special day run as smoothly as possible.

www.tiptonsportsandsocial.co.uk

Celebrating 50 Years this May



Sedgley Road East, Tipton DY4 8XA. Tel: 0121 520 1754

Cosworth Studs

Cosworth stud feeds have been a family run business established for 12 years this January 2014. We are pleased to announce that we are increasing Business growth monthly. We are open 7 days a week and we supply 44 trade shops and general public across the Midlands .

We supply chicken feed, pigeon feed, horse feed, dog food and many other products . Feel free to pop in for a browse around and check out our products. We offer quality feed at outstanding value. We are the cheapest supplier in the country for pigeon feed. We now produce on site our own range of bird feed. New machinery will be fully installed for February 2014 so that we can manufacture more quality produce on site.

We have recently opened a stall on Bescot Market Walsall Football Club every Sunday where we offer a range of quality products.

Unit 4 & 5 Perry Street, Wednesbury WS10 0AZ. Tel: 0121 556 1497

Oakwood Lodges

Oakwood Lodge Park is set high above the beautiful Elan Valley with stunning views from all the lodges towards the lakes and dams. Located just outside the old market town of Rhayader within a 20 acre park offering a quiet and relaxing atmosphere in which to enjoy the varied wildlife.

All the lodges are centrally heated and suitable for all year round holidays. Why not join us for a winter or early spring break. Choose one of our Premium Lodges with a Hot Tub and soak away the winter blues.

We welcome guests with their dogs, so bring your best friend and enjoy the miles of stunning walks, ride the local steam railway, or visit the Red Kite feeding station just down the road.

Call our office or book on line we look forward to welcoming you. www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk

Oakwood Lodge Park, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5NT. Tel: 01597 811422

Chapmans Chippy

You've heard of chicken and chips in a basket but only in the Black Country could you find chips in a battered basket. Chapmans Chippy in Whitehall Road West Bromwich has created a stir with its new edible, deep fried basket which can hold chips, kebab meat or salad. Owner Hermes Kafetzis said "I first started playing about with tortillas a few months ago and eventually found a way of shaping them and they taste delicious too. At only £2.50 it means you can eat anything you put in it then eat the basket aswell".

There is also a price slash on LARGE COD. At only £2.30 for a fresh large cod, we can beat any other half price offers available at other chip shops.

Chapmans Chippy are also celebrating this month 5 years based at Whitehall Road after previously been at Chapman Street

Whitehall Road, West Bromwich, B70 0HE. Tel: 0121 557 1407

Companion Care Vets

Based inside Pets at Home on the Oldbury Green Retail Park, we offer a professional and friendly service with a personal touch, enabling clients to see the same vet upon request and free of charge nurse clinics.

Open 7 days a week and with no weekend surcharge, our prices are highly competitive. We offer continual discounted rates for NHS, emergency services and armed forces employees along with the Over 60's and Pets at Home VIP members.

We have extensive parking facilities and modern equipment with 3 consulting rooms, digital X-ray machine, fully equipped operating theatre for routine, emergency and orthopaedic procedures, in-house laboratory and a hospital ward.

To book an appointment with one of our 3 vets, Monish, Vassilis or Leo, please call 0121 270 2282, visit our website at www.companioncare.co.uk/oldbury or find us on facebook.

Inside Pets At Home, Unit 6 Oldbury Green Ret Park Oldbury Ringway, Oldbury, B69 3DD. Tel : 0121 270 2282

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Evawhite Windows Ltd

Window manufacturers "Evawhite windows" new refurbished showroom is now open to the public from Monday to Fridays (8.00am-5.00pm) & Saturday (8.00am - 2.00pm).
Formed in 1995, Evawhite have grown into a well established and respected upvc specialist within the area.
Priding themselves that their clients deal direct with the owners rather than commission based salesmen, Evawhite has built a marvellous reputation, providing complete product solution, individually designed & installed - a complete job from start to finish!
If you live in the Dudley, Stourbridge, Tipton, or surrounding regions, then please give them a call today for a no obligation quotation on windows, doors and conservatories.
www.evawhite.co.uk

1a Bloomfield Road, Princes End, Tipton, DY4 9EU. Tel: 0121 520 2828

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Cottons have been successfully selling property by Auction for well in excess of 50 years and are now established as one of the leading Auctioneers outside of London.
Our Auctions are usually held at The Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Club, Aston, Birmingham and typically comprise of an extensive range of residential and commercial property, land, and ground rent investments.
Whilst our catalogue will normally comprise of property within the Midlands Region, we have a proven track record for selling lots further a field and extending across the UK.
If you have a property to include in any of our forthcoming Auctions, contact our friendly and professional auction team.

Tel 0121 247 2233
Email auctions@cottons.co.uk
www.cottons.co.uk

359-361 Cavendish House, Hagley Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B17 8DL. Tel: 0121 247 2233

Flora Fabrications

Flora Fabrications are based in West Bromwich and supply to trade and public across the West Midlands. They are a steel and timber merchants and their unique selling points are they cut RSJ to size, make bespoke gate and railings as well as offering a fabrication service.
They have built a fantastic reputation due to the quickness manufacturing products, honest, friendly and reliable service. If all this wasn't enough Flora Fabrications also deliver.

64 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 6JT. Tel: 0121 553 4116.

Affordable Windows

Offering an impressive range of stylish and high quality uPVC windows, doors, conservatories, fascias and guttering, Affordable Windows' products are professionally made and professionally fitted.

The precision manufactured products provide a one-stop-shop solution for new build projects and home improvements, adding real value to your home. Affordable Windows combine high standard uPVC windows and doors with extremely competitive pricing.

The customer can take advantage of the great value packages offered by the company, saving money by purchasing front and back doors together. There are a wide range of doors to select from, now including French doors, with all doors being fitted by a skilled and experienced professional.

Affordable Windows now offer a call out service, offering assistance to those who find themselves requiring urgent assistance. Whether the problem is glass, locks, hinges, or misty units, a skilled operative will on hand to solve your problem quickly and effectively.

Affordable Windows, Doors and Conservatories, located in the Bilston area, is an ideal choice for all your windows, doors and conservatories requirements. For more information about their product range and current prices, please contact them using the details provided on this page.

24 Flamborough Way, Coseley, Bilston, WV14 9UD. Tel: 01902 566832 / 07710 434223

M.J. Moore Builders

"Finding a good quality local builder," is often a complaint echoed repeatedly by clients when speaking to Mick Moore of M.J. Moore builders.
Mick is keen to emphasise that clients can have real peace of mind when hiring him to take care of their building or gardening requirements, from tar macadam for the drive, block paving, fencing or landscaping the garden.
With a great team working with him Mick is able to offer all aspects of building work from domestic or commercial, ranging from electrics, plumbing, carpentry, or plumbing, in fact the team have just completed an £80,000 contract at a local school.
"No job is too big or small" replied Mick when asked the question, so please feel free to call him for a no obligation quotation and more importantly PEACE OF MIND!

23a Myrtle Terrace, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0BX. Tel: 07736 567974

Hawkeye Electrical

Hawkeye Electrical are a wholesaler based in West Bromwich providing a variety of electrical products and security systems The company stock a wide range of electrical equipment and CCTV surveillance systems. They also offer many other security gadgets online and in store.
With fire alarms, trackers, burglar alarms, hidden cameras, intruder alarms, spy gadgets, and lights among the selection of electrical equipment, Hawkeye Electricals really are your one stop shop for security goods.
Bestselling products include, GSM voice transmitter with an unlimited listening range, a wall mount dome bracket for use with DTV-VLD vanvdal resistant dome cameras, and the Sweepmaster F2560 professional counter surveillance system.
Hawkeye Electricals have supplied security equipment to major local companies and organisations including Birmingham City Council, Gulf, West Midlands Police, Dixy Chicken, and Walsall Council. These previous clients have ensured a strong local reputation.
Situated on Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, Hawkeye Electricals provide answers to each of your security concerns.

42 Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, B70 0BN. Tel: 0121 533 9660

Gastek Solutions

As we are Gas Safe Registered Heating Engineers and Gas Fitters, all of our plumbing services are carried out to the

highest standards.

All Gas Safe registered gas installers carry a photo-ID card that shows the businesses Gas Safe registration number and a unique operative ID.

If you are not familiar with the term, 'Gas Safe registered', it indicates that we have achieved expertise in ensuring safety when working with gas, and have qualified for registration with the Council for Registered Gas Installers.

This gives you the assurance that when our plumbers or gas fitters are working in your home, you are receiving a legal and safe service, which is important, not only for your safety, but it is paramount when trying to attain planning permission, insurance, or renting or selling your home.

We are a Worcester Bosch Accredited Company who specialise in Worcester Bosch boilers. We do also fit other boilers but as we are accredited with Worcester Bosch our customers receive a seven year guarantee.

Prices do vary depending on what you as a customer need to complet the job. We offer Free Quotations, No Obligation. Please call the Office if you would like one of the team to book you in!

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WORCESTER Bosch Group Accredited Installer

Gas Safe Register

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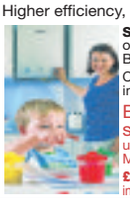

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A tailor-made service helps retain dignity

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

TIPTON Home Care Limited is a private limited company located in the heart of the town, providing personal care and support to its people and those in surrounding areas.

It is a common fact that people are most happy when living in the comfort of their own homes, and Tipton Home Care Limited provides a solution to those who are unable to maintain all the activities of daily living unaided.

The company's care services are designed and tailor made to suit individual needs in order that people can remain in their own homes, thus enabling dignity and self respect to those requiring that little bit of extra help.

Offer

The business has been approved and contracted by Sandwell Council as a provider of care services for Tipton, Wednesbury, Dudley, Great Barr and West Bromwich areas.

The mission statement is: "To provide the best care and support in order that people may remain in their own homes as independently as possible".

A company spokesperson says: "We offer assistance with standard of domiciliary care to people in need to enable them to remain living in their own home.

"Tailor made services meet specific needs, and we will do our very best to ensure personal satisfaction.

Ensure

"Our staff are chosen for their qualities and skills in the job they do and receive update training to ensure they are always competent."

Tipton Home Care Limited was formed in 1995. It is a Quality Assured Company to ISO9002 Standards.

The business supports the rights of disabled people to gain and retain employment, and was awarded the Investors In People award in November 2005.

It is also a member of the United Kingdom Home Care Association (UKHCA) and will adhere to the UKHCA Code of Conduct.

Operating in Tipton, Great Barr, Dudley, Wednesbury and West Bromwich, and also the Borough of Dudley, initial referrals are followed by a visit to carry out a technical assessment of need.

A working care plan will be formulated with you and/or your representative, and any other relevant professional involved, to identify how your health and welfare needs will be met.

A company spokesperson explains: "As part of your assessment we will carry out a number of risk assessments to ensure the safety of both you and your carer are taken into account.

"Your working care plan will be reviewed every six months or as necessary in order to continue to meet your identified needs.

Process

"Every endeavour will be made to assist you, your relatives and your representative to be fully involved in this process."

Tipton Home Care aims to help care for people in the following areas: older people, mental health, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, people with dementia and alzheimer's.

Personal care includes assistance with practical tasks such as washing, shaving (not wet shaving), oral care, dressing, toileting, continence care, feeding, assistance with medication with the use of a medi-pack or blister pack, assistance with getting up or going to bed, making or changing a bed, emptying commodes, shopping for service users, paying bills, collecting service user's pensions (giro only).

Agreed

Staff will also help with service users' laundry and can include ironing, preparing meals, vacuum cleaning, and light domestic tasks – washing dishes, dusting, cleaning of toilets and bathrooms etc.

The company says: "All of the above services are provided by care workers making personal visits at agreed times to meet the needs of the service user and their chosen lifestyle.

"Visits can vary in length from 15 minutes to one or more hours.

"One or more visits can be made throughout the day on one day or seven days per week, following an assessment of need that will identify the services required.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Business name: Tipton Home Care

Address: Number 5 Venture Business Park, Bloomfield Road,Tipton, DY4 9ET

Phone numbers: 0121 557 3649, 0788 901 8517, 0121 557 6080 or email tiptonhomecare@bt-connect.com

Website: www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk

Key areas of activity / sectors: Laundry & Ironing, Social Support, Day or Evening Care, Medication, Night sits & Palliative Care, Personal Care, Bathing, Shopping, Domestic Help

Mission statement: Services are designed and tailor made to suit individual needs in order that people can remain in their own homes, thus enabling dignity and self respect to those requiring that little bit of extra help

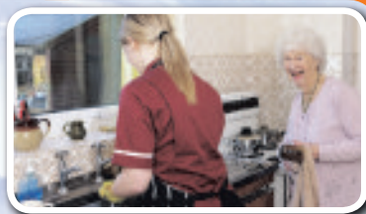
Geographic areas covered: Tipton, Wednesbury, Great Barr, West Bromwich and the Borough of Dudley

When you need extra support and care at home...

Let Tipton Home Care take a Share

Tipton Home Care provides personal care and support to the people of Tipton and the surrounding areas, in their own homes, ensuring peace of mind for both service users and relatives, and most of all dignity for those difficult moments.

Areas covered:
Tipton, Wednesbury, West Bromwich
& Now Covering
Great Barr, Walsall & Dudley



Tipton Home Care are always interested in talking to anyone who would like to join our company as care workers to meet our ever increasing client list.

Tipton Home Care
www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk

Tel: 0121 557 3649 (9am-5pm)
Mobile: 07889 018517
Fax: 0121 557 6080

The business has been approved and contracted by Sandwell Council as a provider of care services

Meet the specialists – A quality assured company to ISO9002 standards, Tipton Home Care Limited was formed in 1995

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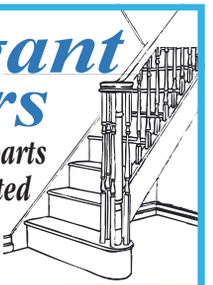

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Was ~~£799~~ **£399**

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3 seater was ~~£799~~ **£479 SAVE £320**
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Save 40%

Tub chairs from £89 **Wing chairs** from £149 **Electric recliners** from £499

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UPTO 70% OFF EVERYTHING!

You will not find better value for money anywhere in the country!

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Single extends to 2 single beds (including base and mattress)
Was ~~£429~~
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Complete with 2 drawers
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PLUS Extra drawers available on this item **just £19 each**

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Small double was ~~£179~~ **£89.50**
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Optional drawers available too

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Designer Bed Frame
gun metal finish
Single was ~~£149~~ **£67**
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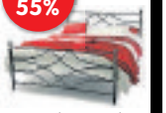

Save 55%

Texas
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Was ~~£666~~ **£399**
King Size £50 extra
Save up to 50% on our huge range of back care and memory foam mattresses

Save 40%

Cleo
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Was ~~£398~~ **£119**

70% off display models

Buckingham
orthopaedic range
Single divan set was ~~£199~~ **£99**
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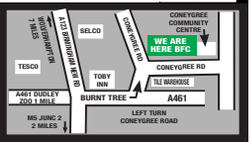

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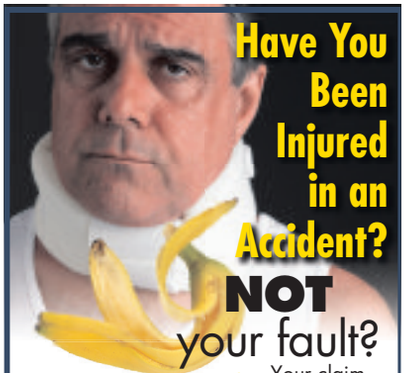

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Drivetime

Celebrating awards success

Motability customers in and around Dudley can be sure of receiving outstanding customer service from local dealer Dudley Motor Company as it celebrates winning a regional award for its work with the car scheme.

The accolade is part of a new programme of awards to reward Motability dealerships which provide outstanding customer service in their area.

The new Dealer Awards programme is designed to ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the dealer network.

The awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their Motability performance.

All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the new national, annual awards which were held for the first time in January 2014.

Peter Wilson, general manager – dealer relations at Motability Operations, explains: "As the 'shop-front' of the Motability scheme, and in many cases the first contact point for our customers, the focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing an ongoing positive customer service experience.

"Our customers continually rate the service they receive at the dealership highly but there's always room for improvement and opportunities to learn from those who are doing it really well, like Dudley Motor Company. Many congratulations to them on their award win".

Celebrating the Motability Dealer Award win, Tony Lister from Dudley Motor Company, said: "We are pleased and proud to win this Motability Dealer Award.

"Motability is renowned for its high standards and Dudley Motor Company is thrilled to be recognised for our dedication to working in partnership with Motability."

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can exchange the weekly payment to lease a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability scheme contact Tony Lister on 01384 454100 or visit the website dudleymotorco.co.uk

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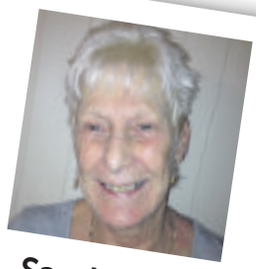
Have you lost money on your investment?

David Strange
from North Devon got back
£14,400
from HSBC

Joan Anderson
from Manchester got back
£6,800
from Lloyds

Bill Thornley
from Bolton got back
£21,500
from Halifax



Sandra Hall
from Plymouth got back
£23,000
from HSBC

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- Improved Three Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Study ● Fitted Kitchen
- Garage & Driveway
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Offers Over £225,000

Park Road, BEARWOOD,

- Semi Detached
- Through Lounge ● Re-fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room ● Two Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Viewing Recommended

Offers Around £164,950

Victoria Road, OLDBURY,

- Semi Detached in need of modernisation
- Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Garage ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £124,950

Elizabeth Crescent, OLDBURY,

- Well Maintained Semi Detached
- Reception Room ● Kitchen/Diner
- Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom
- Driveway

Offers Around £104,950

Coopers Lane, SMETHWICK,

- End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms ● Re-fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom ● Two Bedrooms
- Viewing Recommended

Offers Around £109,950

Laxey Road, EDGBASTON,

- Extended Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-fitted Extended Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom
- Ideal First Time Purchase

Offers Around £105,000

Park Retreat, SMETHWICK,

- Mid Terrace Property
- Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment

Offers Around £89,950

Draycott Road, SMETHWICK,

- Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment

Offers Around £89,950

Ivy Grove, WINSON GREEN,

- End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen ● Two Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment

Offers Around £85,000

New John Street, HOCKLEY,

- Takeaway/Eat-in/Delivery Business
- Sales Area ● Preparation Area
- Kitchen ● 17 year lease
- Rent £110 per week ● Rates currently exempt

Offers Around £35,000

LANDLORDS!

DUE TO RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF LETS AGREED WE ARE NOW SEEKING PROPERTIES TO LET IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- BEARWOOD
- OLDBURY
- HARBORNE
- SMETHWICK
- QUINTON
- TIPTON

IF YOU HAVE PROPERTY TO LET PLEASE CALL FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR COMPETITIVE FEES AND LATEST OFFERS

Offices at:
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APEX ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Let Through One Of Sandwell's Oldest Letting Agent!

WEST BROMWICH
RUTLAND ROAD

A good size 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, kitchen with white goods, downstairs w.c, first floor bathroom. central heated and double glazed. Private drive for numerous cars.

£620 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
MEYRICK ROAD

Modern 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazing, off road parking. Available unfurnished. must be viewed to be appreciated.

£695 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JAMES EATON CLOSE

A spacious 2 bedroom bunglow near the Sandwell hospital, good size reception room. Kitchen with white goods, Off road parking. Can be furnished.

£625 pcm

WEDNESBURY
BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD

one bedroom flat, spacious reception, ch & dg available unfurnished. off road parking

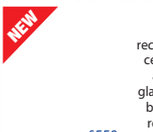
£450 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
BEACONSVIEW RD

Ground floor one bedroom flat, newly refurbished, spacious lounge. ch and double glazed. communial carpark.

£399 pcm

WOLVERHAMPTON
DUBERVILLE ROAD



3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, off road parking.

£550 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
GORDON AVENUE

Spacious 3 bdroom property, kitchen with dining area, central heated and double glazed. First floor bathroom. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Near the Menzies school and college.

£550 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
KINITHS CRESCENT

3 bedroom semi-detached property in a prime location, spacious through lounge, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking. High spec finished. must be viewed.

£600 pcm

TIPTON
NIGHTINGALE RD

modern 1 bedroom ground floor flat, spacious lounge, bathroom and kitchen, double glazed window

£375 pcm

OLDBURY
PEEL STREET

Ground floor 2 bedroom Maisonnette, lounge, Kitchen with cooker and fridge. Central heating and double glazed. off road parking. Available unfurnished.

£450 pcm

WEST BROWICH
EUROPA AVENUE

Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished

£750 pcm

OLDBURY
KNOTTSALL LANE

Beautiful 1 bedroom first floor flat, central heated and double glazed, spacious lounge and bedroom, communal car park.

£495 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
WOOD LANE

3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.

£499 pcm

DUDLEY
SOUTHGATE WAY

Modern 2 bedroom aprtment, open plan kitchen. fitted bathroom. economy heating and double glazed through out. designated parking. Available unfurnished. Must be viewed

£495 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JEFFERSON PLACE

Modern ground floor apartment situated near sandwell hospital off Grafton road, spacious open plan kitchen and lounge, 1 bedroom, fitted bathroom. secure allocated parking.

£430 pcm

WEDNESBURY
ELWELL STREET

First floor one bedroom flat, spacious lounge, ch and Dg, Must be viewed. Modernised.

£400 pcm

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

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OLDBURY

Richmond Hill

An attractively presented, spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood and truly requiring internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), attractive kitchen, delightful spacious lounge, super good sized conservatory/garden room, utility, 3 bedrooms (master having shower room en-suite), house bathroom, garage and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers in excess of £175,000

BEARWOOD AREA

Abbey Road

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities, amenities and handy for Warley Woods, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, Lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, rear vestibule/utility area, downstairs w.c, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, shower/wet room, and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £139,950

SMETHWICK

Linden Road

An attractive, well proportioned, deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilites and amenities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, inner hall, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating E. bearwood office 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £127,500

OLDBURY

Causeway Green Road

A well proportioned 3 Bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, dining/ sitting room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY

Mallard Drive

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious 2 bedroomed starter home, occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this convenient neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, attractive kitchen, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant rear garden and allocated parking space. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £99,950

OLDBURY

Salop Road

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed end terraced property conveniently situated, having part double glazing, gas radiator heating, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, pleasant rear garden and outside w.c. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £94,950

OLDBURY

Causeway Green Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 2 good sized double bedrooms and rear garden area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £89,950

OLDBURY

WAS £214,950 NOW £209,950

Warwick Road

An extremely spacious, delightfully presented and thoughtfully improved 4 BEDROOMED extended semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, Delightful spacious through lounge, attractive conservatory, dining room, super re-fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c, 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), superb re-fitted house bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £209,950

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TIPTON

Beautifully presented 2nd floor apartment in popular location close to local amenities. The accomodation comprises of communal entrance and private entrance hall. Lounge with feature fireplace and balcony. Kitchen, bathroom and seperate w/c. 3 bedrooms. Off road parking and no upward chain. Must be viewed to appreciate.

CHURCHFIELD AVE £49,950

WEST BROMICH

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WILLIAM STREET 500 PCM

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DARLASTON

New instruction well presented 1st floor apartment. Refurbished and Redecorated throughout. Communal entrance and seperate private entrance hall. Kitchen and bathroom both refitted to very high standard. 3 beds. Available Immediately. First 6 months to include gas central heating bills.

Alfred Street £500 p.c.m

BILSTON

End Terrace, Porch, , Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Beds, Bathroom and gardens to front and rear. Must be viewed.

Slim Avenue £395 PCM

TIPTON

Well presented mid terrace in popular location. Ideal for first time buyer. Comprises: Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden & Off Road Parking

Rowland Hill Drive £110,000

SUTTON COLDFIELD

Well presented 2/3 bed mid terrace, Seperate lounge and dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking

Riland Avenue £625 P.C.M

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- Directly overlooking Warley Woods
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- FIVE bedrooms, master bedroom having en-suite shower and walk-in wardrobe
- Family bathroom with Jacuzzi bath
- Lounge and dining room
- Conservatory
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Side garage and off-street parking

OFFERS BASED ON 440,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

52 VALENTINE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Inter-war mid-town house
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom with shower
- Living room and good size kitchen/ breakfast room
- Large conservatory
- Gardens with off-street parking
- In need of some general improvement

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Oldbury Office

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NEW

35 ST. MARKS ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Hall, two reception rooms and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom & verandah
- Side garage
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- Ideal family home

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

31 TRINDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Semi-detached close to Warley Woods
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled shower room
- Extended through lounge & kitchen/dining room
- Additional downstairs shower room
- Garden with SUBSTANTIAL SUMMERHOUSE
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

164 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- property
- Substantial extended semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- 4 bedrooms, master having en-suite shower
- Family bathroom
- Two reception rooms & dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room & cloakroom/utility
- Off-street parking for three cars
- Potential for the erection of a garage
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £239,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

1B ELM CROFT, OLDBURY

- Truly immaculate freehold detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Spacious lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Fully tiled bathroom with Jacuzzi bath
- Two double bedrooms, master having shower
- Side garage
- Landscaped gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £249,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

15 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- Ground floor warden controlled flat
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing
- Spacious lounge and kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £67,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

5 BISSELL STREET, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Loft room with potential for conversion, subject to planning regulations
- Lounge, dining room and fitted kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom with individual shower
- Cottage style rear garden
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £149,995

Viewing Bearwood Office

19 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- First floor flat off main Hagley Road West
- Electric storage heating and double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- Warden controlled accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £58,000 ALL

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

26 HERBERT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- Part PVC double glazed (where specified)
- Three bedrooms, master having walk-in wardrobe
- Shower room
- Impressive vestibule & hall with original minton tiled floors
- Lounge and sitting room
- Kitchen and utility
- Number of original features
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

106 HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

- Exceptionally convenient location with easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated, double glazed and alarmed
- Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods within easy reach
- Two double bedrooms & bathroom with shower
- Two pleasant reception rooms & refitted kitchen
- Ideal first time purchasers
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

39 BRISBANE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/diner
- Extended kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

267 WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON

- Double glazed, centrally heated and alarmed
- FOUR bedrooms and washroom/WC to the first floor
- Hall, spacious inter-communicating lounge/ dining room, extended kitchen and bathroom downstairs
- Gardens with off-street parking for 4/5 cars
- Easy reach Harborne village, Birmingham University and QE Hospital
- Some general upgrading required
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £155,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

33 CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Superbly presented
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Impressive through lounge
- Refitted kitchen
- Neatly laid out well stocked garden
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Well presented ground floor flat
- PVC double glazed and well heated
- Gated development
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- Garage and communal gardens
- FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

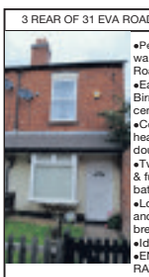
REDUCED

64 THE UPLANDS, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced villa
- Close to Bearwood & Smethwick High Streets
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Garden to the rear
- Ideally suited for first time buyers
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £87,500

Viewing Bearwood Office



3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

310 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Substantial semi-detached residence
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Ideal investment opportunity
- FIVE self-contained flats
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- EPC Rating D/E
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

OFFERS BASED ON £249,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

8 RATCLIFF WALK, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- PVC double glazed
- Duct-air central heating
- Two bedrooms (readily re-convertible to 3)
- Shower room
- Spacious lounge and conservatory
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Neatly laid out garden
- Allocated off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

67 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Recently refurbished freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully tiled refitted bathroom
- Hall, lounge, dining room and refitted kitchen
- Ideally suited for first time buyers
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE RECOMMENDED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129950

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

217 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid terraced property
- Easy reach of Warley Woods & Lightwoods Park
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, dining room, lounge and kitchen
- Gas centrally heated
- Part PVC double glazed
- Requiring some cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £140,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

5 CEMETERY ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Separate first floor cloakroom
- Two reception rooms
- Off-street parking at the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £96,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

101 TRAFALGAR ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three storey mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £111,950

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Scriven & Co. team

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Chartered Valuation Surveyors and Estate Agents

www.scriven.co.uk 0121 422 4011

Halesowen

Manor Lane
* Extended semi detached house * Four bedrooms
* Bathroom and en-suite shower room
* Good sized garage * Lovely rear garden EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £324,950

Oldbury

Yardley Close
* End terraced house
* Three good sized bedrooms
* Through living room
* Rear Garden
EPC = tbc
Offers in the region of £109,950

Oldbury

Sunnybank Road
* Superior detached family house
* Four bedrooms
* Lounge & Dining room
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* Fitted cloakroom
* Well appointed bathroom & ensuite
* Enclosed gardens & large garage
* EPC = B
£275,000

Quinton

Powell Avenue
* Mid terraced house
* Living room
* Kitchen/Dining room
* Two bedrooms
* Garage in nearby block
EPC =D
Offers in the region of £124,950

Quinton

Quinton Road West
* Semi detached house
* Recently modernised
* Re-fitted kitchen/dining room
* Re-fitted bathroom
* Three bedrooms
EPC = C
Offers in the region of £134,950

Oldbury

Oldacre Road
* Terraced House
* Through living room comprising living and dining area
* Bathroom and separate wc
* Three bedrooms
* Rear garden
EPC = C
Offers in the region of £109,950

Oldbury

Apsley Road
* Semi-detached house
* Good sized plot
* Garage
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* No chain
EPC = tbc
Offers in the region of £159,950

Oldbury

Plot 3 Site of
46 George Road
* Link detached bungalow
* Two parking spaces
* Two bedrooms
* L Shaped lounge/dining area
* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances * Luxury bathroom with shower over bath
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* EPC = C
£185,000

Stourbridge

Land Fronting
Yardley Street
* Residential Development Site
* Extending to (0.16 hectares) (0.39 acres)
* Planning permission for 4 detached houses
Offers in the region of £200,000

Halesowen

69, 69A & 69B Long Lane & 1 Parade Buildings Nimmings Road
* Investment for sale
* Two lock-up shops
* Two first floor flats
* Total rental income £13,900 pa
* Full details contact agents 0121 422 4011 (ref MS)
EPC Ratings: 69 (E), 69A (D), 69B (D), 1 Parade Buildings (C)
Offers in the region of £155,000

Halesowen

324 Hagley Road
* 2 double bedroom House
* FANTASTIC LOCATION!
* Ideal for nearby popular Schools
* 2 reception rooms (both with new carpets) * Spacious kitchen with some appliances * GCH & DG to most windows * Available now! * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £525+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Cradley Heath

5 Mill Road
* Semi-detached house
* 2 bedrooms (1 with wardrobes)
* Fitted kitchen with some appliances
* Bathroom with shower over bath
* DG to most windows & Gas CH
* EPC=D * MUST VIEW!
* Available 1st April
Monthly rent of £525+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

101 Olive Lane
* Semi detached house
* Two Bedrooms
* Nice living room with sliding doors to garden * Kitchen with oven, hob, hood and fridge * Modern boiler * Gas CH & joinery DGW * Off road parking & attractive garden with shed * EPC = D
Monthly rent of £535+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Cradley Heath

33 Spinners End Drive
* Ground floor flat ***REDUCED RENT***
* Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe
* Kitchen with host of appliances
* White bathroom suite with shower
* Convenient location * Modern neutral finish * Nice carpets, electric heating & DGW * Allocated car space * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £350+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Harborne

70 Tennal Road
* 3 bedroom semi-detached house
* Popular location in Harborne
* modern fitted kitchen with oven & hob
* Stylish bathroom with separate shower cubicle * UPVC DGW & Gas CH
* Off road car-parking & garden
*Available NOW! *MUST VIEW! EPC=D
Monthly rent of £775+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Smethwick

53 Wattis Road
* Lovely 2 bedroom part-furnished house * Both bedrooms are double
* Great location for commuting into City
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen with new cooker
* Bathroom with shower
* GCH & DGW * Garden * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £550+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

16 Woodland Road
* Traditional 3 bedroom house
* Neutral finish/decor
* 2 Living rooms
* Bathroom with shower
* UPVC DG windows & Gas CH
* Location convenient for nearby schools * EPC=E
Monthly rent of £650+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

BOOT & SON

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Established 1919

Property Auction

Monday 31st March 2014
7:00pm Prompt
At The Premier Suite,
Bar Sport
High Green Cannock

Address	Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March	Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th March
40 Handley Street, Wednesbury	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
42 Handley Street, Wednesbury	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
103 Woden Avenue, Wednesfield	10.15 a.m.	10.15 a.m.
Bank House, Mill Street, Cannock	11.15 a.m.	11.15 a.m.
54 New Penkridge Road, Cannock	12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon
90A Cannock Road, Blackfords	12.45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.
221 Littleworth Road, Hednesford	1.15 p.m.	1.15 p.m.
45 Bow Street, Rugeley	2.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m.
123 Cannock Road, Chadsmoor	2.45 p.m.	2.45 p.m.
Land adj. 49 Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley	By calling on site with a catalogue to hand.	

LOT 1 — GUIDE PRICE £70,000

103 WODEN AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Three bedroomed semi detached house
- In popular residential area
- Benefiting from gas fired central heating
- Requiring some general repair and improvement

LOT 2 — GUIDE PRICE £150,000 - £160,000

221 LITTLEWORTH ROAD, HEDNESFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Substantial detached house
- Standing on a good sized plot ideal for owner occupation, conversion or redevelopment (subject to planning permission)
- EPC rating 31

LOT 3 — GUIDE PRICE £45,000 - £50,000

42 HANDLEY STREET, WEDNESBURY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- End terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- EPC rating 16

LOT 4 — GUIDE PRICE £50,000 - £55,000

40 HANDLEY STREET, WEDNESBURY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Mid terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- EPC rating 12

LOT 5 — GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £50,000

BANK HOUSE, MILL STREET, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Prominently located town centre offices
- 327 Sq. M or thereabouts
- 12 car parking spaces
- Grade II listed building
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- EPC rating D/100

LOT 6

90A CANNOCK ROAD, BLACKFORDS, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
- Currently producing £13,925 per annum
- Capable of producing £16,600 per annum
- Substantial detached property arranged as 4 one bedroomed flats
- Good sized site providing off road parking
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed

LOT 7

45 BOW STREET, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Listed building offering extensive accommodation on three floors having been more recently used as pub/ club premises with ancillary and living accommodation on upper floors and courtyard
- Possible development opportunity

LOT 8
LAND ADJOINING 49 BENTONS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Individual residential building plot with benefit of full planning permission for erection of single residential dwelling

LOT 9

54 NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached house of character
- Three bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating (not tested)
- Predominantly double glazed
- In need of improvement/ refurbishment
- Located in much sought after residential area of the town

LOT 10

123 CANNOCK ROAD, CHADSMOOR, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- End terraced house of brick and tile construction
- Ideal buy to let
- Benefiting from gas central heating and some double glazing
- EPC rating 46

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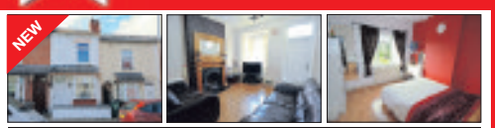
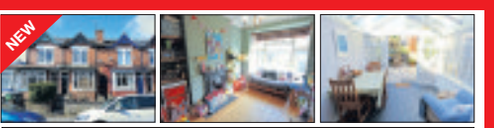
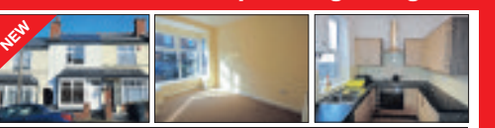
Incorporating Laing & Co


Gladys Road, Bearwood
- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Convenient Location for Amenities
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £117,500


Galton Road, Bearwood
- An Exceptional Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Stunning Extended Kitchen
- Abundance of Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £182,500


Pargeter Road, Bearwood
- A Refurbished Traditional Terrace
- Modern Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

Rutland Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £125,000

Marlborough Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £124,950

Barston Road, Oldbury
- Traditional Semi Detached
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £139,950

Titford Road, Oldbury

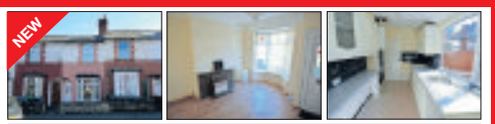
- Attractive End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £104,950

Clarendon Road, Smethwick

- Priced to Sell!
- Sold With Sitting Tenant
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

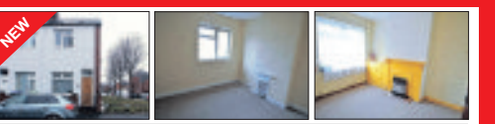
Offers in the region of £94,950


Clarendon Road, Smethwick
- A Delightful Traditional Terrace
- An Additional WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £99,950

Merrivale Road, Bearwood
- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Stylish Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Must be Seen!
- Superb Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £134,950


Kimberley Road, Smethwick
- Traditional End Terrace
- Requiring Some Improvement
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £74,950

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Bartrams

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RIPON DRIVE, B71 2JP

NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway And Garage
- Double Glazed
- Freehold

£119,950

ANDREW ROAD, B71 3QP

NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating Double Glazing
- Open Plan Lounge
- Garage

£132,500

HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 3JS

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Driveway
- Garage
- Freehold

£144,950

EBRINGTON ROAD LAND, B71 1AB

NEW

- Land Rear Of Ebrington Road
- Land For Sale
- Outline Consent For Four Bungalows
- Sought After Location
- Plans Available On Request

£180,000

WALSALL STREET LAND, WS10 9EN

NEW

- Land For Sale
- Development Land
- With Outline Consent For Residential Use
- Freehold

Offers In The Excess Of £50,000

CREED WAY, B70 9JW

REDUCED

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms, En Suite
- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Freehold

£149,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating

£94,950

BUSTLEHOLME LANE, B71 3BQ

- A Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-suite

POP TS15

£295,000

CARNEGIE DRIVE, WS10 9HT

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Driveway & Garage
- Freehold

£209,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating And Freehold

£179,950

YORK CRESCENT, B70 0JT

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms One With En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

£164,950

MEYRICK ROAD, B70 0JW

- A Modern Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garage
- Freehold

£144,950

Bartrams

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HEATH LANE, B71 2BH

- A Detached Property
- Six Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Two Reception Rooms And Freehold
- Garage At Rear

£299,950

HAYWOODS FARM, B71 3QT

- A Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- Freehold

£149,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- Freehold

£124,950

ALL SAINTS WAY, B71 1RH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Paved Driveway, Rear Garden
- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Freehold

£114,950

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

- A Double Fronted Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Freehold
- Large Driveway
- Garage
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION £205,000

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room

£99,950

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0JB

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Rear Garden

£99,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
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High Hill
ESSINGTON

- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fantastic Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Wet Room
- NO CHAIN

£325,000

Blockall
DARLASTON

- 5 Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Sun Room
- Two Garages
- Heated Swimming Pool

£325,000

WEST BROMWICH
WHITGREAVE STREET

- Detached Four Bedroom House
- Four Reception Rooms
- 35ft Conservatory
- Family Shower Room
- Janet and John Ensuite Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- High End CCTV Security System
- Gas Central Heating

£279,950

WOLVERHAMPTON
LEIGHTON ROAD

- 3 BED SEMI DETACHED
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- VIEW NOW!!!

£199,999

WOLVERHAMPTON
HODNET CLOSE

- Well presented property
- Breakfast/ Kitchen
- family detached home
- 4 Bedrooms
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room
- Viewing advised

£189,995

WOLVERHAMPTON
TRYSULL ROAD

- NO CHAIN
- IMMACULATE THROUGHOUT
- SPACIOUS LONGE KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- RE-FITTED

£186,950

WEST BROMWICH
EDWIN PHILLIPS DRIVE

Three Bedroom Detached House
Stunningly Well Presented
Newly Fitted
Breakfast Kitchen
Conservatory
Drive And Detached Garage

£165,000

WEDNESBURY
COLLINS ROAD

- Four Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking

£139,995

WOLVERHAMPTON
LYMER ROAD

3 Bed Semi Detached
Off Road Parking
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Saught After Location
Situated in a quiet Cul-de-sac
View Now!!

£135,000

WEDNESBURY
OLD PARK ROAD

Semi Detached House
Four Bedrooms
Open Plan
Lounge Diner
Fully Fitted Kitchen
Viewing Essential

£128,000

DARLASTON
DORSETT ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Two en-suites
- Off road parking

£179,950

WEST BROMWICH
COLES LANE

EXTENDED Three Bedroom Semi Detached
Ensuite Shower Room
Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
Garage
Priced To Sell And Must Be Viewed

£125,000

TIPTON
HORSELEY HEATH

- Three bedroom
- Semi detached house
- Two reception rooms
- Front and rear gardens
- Parking & detached garage
- Viewings essential

£125,000

WOLVERHAMPTON
ROTHESAY GARDENS

- MODERN
- LARGE LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- TWO BEDROOM
- NO CHAIN
- VIEWINGS ADVISED!!

£125,000

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WOLVERHAMPTON
CRATHORNE AVENUE
- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- Spacious Lounge
- NO CHAIN !!
- View Now !!

£125,000

WOLVERHAMPTON
WORTLEY AVENUE
- DETACHED
- Modern Throughout
- Spacious Lounge
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms

£124,995

WEDNESBURY
DURHAM ROAD
- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

£124,995

BILSTON
LADYMOOR ROAD
- THREE BED
- SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- TWO FAMILY BATHROOMS
- REAR EXTENSION
- FURTHER PLANNING PERMISISION IN PLACE
- VIEW NOW!!!!

£124,995

WEST BROMWICH
TAME STREET
- 2 Bed Modern Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom

£120,000

TIPTON
UPPER CHURCH LANE
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- EXTENSIVE
- Drive & Garden
- Garage
- Downstairs WC

£119,950

DUDLEY
HIGHFIELD ROAD
- Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking

£119,950

TIPTON
ST HELENS AVENUE
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Drive

£119,000

WOLVERHAMPTON
BARNFIELD ROAD
- No Chain!!
- Spacious Kitchen
- Lounge
- Large Conservatory
- Off Road Parking

£115,000

TIPTON
ROWLAND HILL DRIVE
- Two Bedroom Town House
- Ideal For First Time Buyers and Investors
- Off Road Parking
- ●●NO CHAIN●●
- Call GOODCHILDS to VIEW

£110,000

WEDNESBURY
JOHNSON CLOSE
- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- DRIVE
- NO CHAIN

£109,950

WOLVERHAMPTON
BICKFORD ROAD
- Well Presented
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Viewing advised

£99,995

DARLASTON
ST GEORGES CLOSE

- **Three Bedroom**
- **Fully Fitted Kitchen**
- **Conservatory**
- **Family Bathroom**
- **No Chain**
- **Viewing advised**

£104,950

WEST BROMWICH
VICARAGE ROAD
- 2 Good Bedrooms
- Modern Town House
- Private Rear Garden
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Conservatory

£95,000

WOLVERHAMPTON
MARKET SQUARE
SIXTH FLOOR 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF WOLVERHAMPTON MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE SECURE GATED UNDERGROUND PARKING VIEWINGS ADVISED!!

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WEDNESBURY
HOLYHEAD ROAD
Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment Very Well Presented Fully Fitted Kitchen Central Heating & Double Glazing Viewing Essential

£88,500

WEST BROMWICH
WHITEHALL ROAD
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Very Well Presented
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Ideal Investment

£74,995

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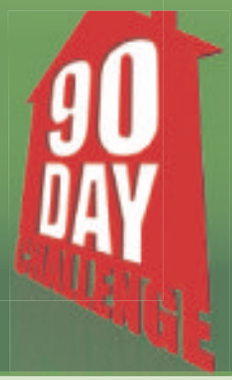

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Drivetime

Alfa Romeo special event

With the introduction of the '14' registration plate, Alfa Romeo is holding a special March sales event, offering up to an additional £1,000 contribution on the latest models, over and above all existing retailing offers.

Until March 24, new car buyers can drive away an Alfa Romeo MiTo with an additional £1,000 contribution or an Alfa Romeo Giulietta with a £500 contribution.

Buyers wishing to drive away in an Alfa Romeo MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105hp Sportiva can avail of an additional £1,000 contribution, monthly payments of just £199 and a customer deposit of only £999.

The Alfa Romeo MiTo Sportiva takes its inspiration from the range-topping Quadrifoglio Verde. The offer already includes a £750 customer saving.

Customers can also step into the new Alfa Romeo Giulietta 1.4 TB 120hp Progression with an additional £500 over and above the existing £1,000 Alfa Romeo deposit contribution, with monthly payments of £209; 0 per cent APR representative, and just £1,899 customer deposit. The offer also includes the new Luna Pearl special metallic paint worth £510.

The 2014 Alfa Romeo Giulietta benefits from new interiors with redesigned seats and new fabric and leather upholsteries, improved standard specification across the range plus new technologies such as the Uconnect colour touch-screen infotainment system.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

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Kia refreshes best budget 4x4 - popular Kia Sportage

It's easy to believe for a moment that the market for compact SUVs hasn't changed all that much in the last ten years, but it's now radically different and the biggest beneficiary of these changes have been Kia, and more specifically its Sportage. That car's been fettled and refreshed now and still looks the best budget 4x4 not a whole lot of money can buy.

As before, you get a choice of four powerplants. There are 1.7 or 2.0-litre common-rail diesels with 113 and 134bhp respectively– or 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrols packing 138 and 161bhp.

Performance is similar with the 2.0-litre units as both manage the 0-62mph trial in under 11s with the manual gearbox installed. The entry level cars have front wheel-drive, with upper spec models getting all-wheel traction.

The Sportage uses a part-time all-wheel-drive system which sends 100 per cent of power to the front wheels unless slippage is detected and it's automatically diverted to the rear. There's a Lock Mode for off-road driving which splits the available power 50/50 between the front and rear wheels, but it only operates below 25mph. All Sportage models have Hillstart Assist Control to help with uphill getaways and Downhill Brake Control to provide reassurance on steep descents.

The latest car features Kia's Flex Steer system on selected models. This allows the driver to choose between three different levels of power assistance according to preference and where the car is being driven. 'Comfort' mode provides increased help for parking or manoeuvring in tight areas, for example, while 'Sport' lessens the assistance for increased feel and stability at higher speeds. There is also a 'Normal' setting. In addition to this, the windscreen glass has been modified to reduce the amount of noise entering the cabin.

Otherwise, it's still as practical as ever. It just feels a little better built. The generous dimensions of the Sportage are carried over. There's a substantial boot measuring in at 564-litres when the rear seats are occupied – or 1,353-litres when they're folded down. Storage space inside the Sportage includes a six-litre centre console bin, large door pockets and a glovebox that's air-conditioned on some models.

Variants

Prices kick off at around £17,500, which keeps things real and Kia has done a spot of tinkering with the mix of the model line-up. Two additional variants at the top and bottom have been added to the team sheet to further broaden the appeal to customers– an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi at entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is now an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model. The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and remain the mainstays of the range in the UK.

Equipment levels have also been subtly boosted across the range.

The best-performing Sportage from an economy and emissions perspective is the font-wheel drive 1.7 CRDi diesel which manages 54.3mpg and 135g/km. That's pretty good going. Should you choose petrol power, the 1.6 GDi powerplant returns a combined fuel figure of 44.1mpg and emissions of 149g/km. Should you want an all-wheel drive 2.0-litre diesel, you're looking at 49.6mpg and 149g/km which is very good .

Beware opting for the automatic version though, as this puts a bit of a dent into the efficiency metrics at 40.9mpg and 179g/km.

Like the rest of the Kia range, the Sportage is sold with the excellent seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached. Fixed cost servicing also brings additional peace of mind via the Kia Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years. Again, all packages cover the car, not the owner, so are transferable should the vehicle be sold.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the new Kia 'VR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions are 148 – 99 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Quote taken from Kia customer reviews. Directly comparable quotes occur across the Kia range. ^Models shown: Picanto 3-dr 'VR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £8,795 including customer saving of £750 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; Rio 5-dr 'VR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £11,095 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; cee'd 5-dr 'VR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £13,995 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/care3 for full details. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 31 March 2014. Participating dealers only. *4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditional Sale on Picanto, Rio and cee'd models. 10% minimum deposit required on cee'd models. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details.

This family run-around is certain to create waves

By John Griffiths

If you want to go back to the future, you don't need an eccentric scientist and a nuclear-powered silver sports car.

You can do it for an awful lot less thanks to a car maker which has taken a bold new look at the market, expectations and the concept of value for money.

It hasn't exactly arrived in a flash of blinding light but this manufacturer's latest offering is something of a revelation.

The Dacia Logan is a mid-sized family estate (although for cargo capacity it's not far behind big hitters like the Volvo V70) which is cheap to run, practical but costs half as much as some of its rivals. Dacia calls it an MCV, or maximum capacity vehicle, but in most other fleets its streamlined appearance would earn it a 'sports tourer' tag.

I drove the mid-range Ambiance model, with a 90bhp petrol engine capable of over 56mpg. It could be described as 'no frills' but hardly basic, with a 573 litre load bay which stretches to an impressive 1,518 with the rear seats folded down.

The price? Wait for it – £8,595 on the road and if you are really counting the pennies you could have an entry level model for £6,995.

It's based on a stretched version of the multi award-winning Duster platform, using using proven technology, engineering and in many cases parts (include engines) from the Renault group which owns the Romanian company.

It seems even Renault has been surprised by Dacia's success, as it didn't originally intend to sell the cars in Western Europe where much of the market is dominated by badge-consciousness and the need to embrace all the latest, must have gadgetry. But customer demand, particularly from the hard-pressed private buyer spending their own money, means that Dacia (pronounced Datch-ya) looks set to be the next big name in budget motoring.

Using well-established technology, concentrating on basics, limiting such things as colour choices and accessory packs for ease of manufacture, means they can keep prices down. It doesn't mean you have a car which does any less.

Is this a glimpse of the future, if there are still to be cars which the man in the street can afford to buy new? The £8,595 test car, for example, comes with ABS, emergency brake assist, electronic stability and traction controls, hill start assist, twin airbags, electric front windows, a radio/CD player with Bluetooth, remote central locking and split/fold rear seats.

Capacity

It was powered by Renault's latest TCe petrol engine, which also appears in the new Clio range. Its capacity of just 898cc seems unfeasibly small for a car of this size but with well-spaced gearchanges it will go from a standstill to 62mph in a fairly fleet 11.1 seconds.

You don't notice anything lacking on the open road, either, as this mighty atom's secret is turbocharging. Not only does it have more power than the older, normally aspirated 1,200cc unit it has almost twice the torque which makes for smoother progress with less effort.

Fuel consumption averages 56.5mpg, with a low 116g/km of CO2 emissions. The means no road tax in the first year, and just £30 annually after that.

The Renault Group's proven 1.5dCi turbo diesel, of course, has even more torque, is more economical (65.7mpg) and beats the magic 100g/km of CO2 so it's road tax free.

But, model for model, it's also £1,000 dearer so retail buyers in particular have to do their sums. With your average mileage, and the 10p per litre premium on diesel prices, how long would it take for you to break even?

There's also the question of whether the car's main role is for the school run, transporting the dog and other domestic duties, or whether if you're using it as an alternative to a van when the diesel's extra pulling power might be a better bet.

There's not much to say about the way the Logan drives. For most that isn't a criticism: but just does what it does competently. Steering is light, unless you're really working it hard you're more likely to be listening for wind noise rather than the engine, and the ride is compliant. The sub-£7,000 entry level model, the Access, is basically equipped and doesn't, for example, have such luxuries as electric windows or even a radio. But it still has the full safety pack which is standard across the range, including front and side airbags, ABS, traction and stability controls.

The Ambiance tested is better equipped, while the flagship Laureate adds to its specification with upgraded trim, alloy wheels, cruise control, trip computer and electric door mirrors, electric windows on the back as well and front fog lights and yet still costs under £9,000 for the 1.2 petrol version, or £10,795 with the flagship diesel under the bonnet.

The limited number of options includes an upgraded Sat-Nav/audio pack for Ambiance and Laureate versions.

The Dacia story is similar to that of Skoda's transformation by the VW Group – no-one's laughing at Skoda now.

The Dacia name isn't yet that well known in Britain but that will change if, under Renault's direction, it keeps producing cars like this which are the epitome of commonsense, practicality and value for money.

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CHEVROLET

Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.7 VCDi: Urban 41.5, Extra-Urban 61.4, Combined 52.3, CO_2 125 g/km; Spark 1.2 LTZ (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 68.9, Combined 56.5, CO_2 118 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined – 43.4-62.7. CO_2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LT and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax.. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative, Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH1 1SR or GMAC PO BOX 6666. Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.

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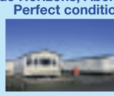

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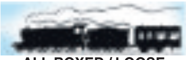

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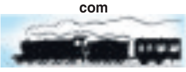

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4 Pets & Animals

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pets corner

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
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business opportunities

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6 Property

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TWO BED HOUSE, Derby Street, Walsall. Gas c/h. Very good condition. £105 per week. DSS considered. Tel 07983 965589

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

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MGTF 2 SEATER 2004 reg., convertible, 6 months tax, MoT, 74,000 miles blue, good condition. £1,500 ono. 07551 294395.

PEUGEOT 106, 2001, MoT to Dec 2014, new tyres, met green, excellent condition, £850 o.n.o. 01889 881807 or 07967 412911.

PEUGEOT 106, 2002, blue, 12 months MoT, sunroof, CD, 51 plate, £595. 07904 088708 or 07414 725552.

RENAULT CLIO 1.6, RXE auto, 1999, 5dr, 12 months MoT, owned 3 years, £775 ono. 01543 490105 (little haywood) 07836 680747.

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SMART FORTWO 2005 reg., passion, auto, silver, f.s.h. MOT, tax, economical, new battery v.g.c. £1,995 ono. 07563 100408.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA, 2005, only 42,000 miles, auto, 1.6 petrol, a/c, MoT June, 4x4, nice clean car. £3,999 ono. 07817 527834.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Design 1.8, 5dr, black, MoT Oct 2014, short tax, alloys, tinted windows, 2005 reg, £1,895. 07521 411373.

VAUXHALL CORSA Active, 06, 1.4 auto, 5 door, silver, 20,500 miles, 1 lady owner, very good condition, £3,950. 01889 583312.

commercial vehicles

RENAULT MASTER ML35 DCi, tipper, 03 reg, 60,000mls, MoT Sept, white, £2,500. 0121 5264793.

VOLKSWAGEN CADDY SDI, 2002, White, Tax and MoT, PAS, Diesel, Alloy wheels £950. o.n.o. 07415 411305.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL
(NEW POOL ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH)
(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2014

The Borough Council of Sandwell in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consulting with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, has made an Order which will introduce the following:-

1. 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction in part(s) of Primrose Close, Cradley Heath.
2. Increase the length of 'No Waiting At Any Time' in part(s) of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.
3. 'Limited Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 1 hour No Return within 2 hours' in parts of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.

The Order was made on 18th March 2014, and will come into operation on 12th April 2014.

A copy of the draft Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and map showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE between the hours of 8am - 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8am - 5pm on Fridays. A plan is also available to view on the council's website.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that a requirement of the Act or that any regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the Order, may within 6 weeks from the 20th March 2014, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Dated this 20th day of March 2014

S Handley, Area Director Street Scene
Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury,West Midlands B69 3DE

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Popes Lane, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate works by Amey (who are working on behalf of Severn Trent Water), the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Popes Lane, Oldbury from its junction with Nelson Street to its junction with Tat Bank Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Tat Bank Road, Parsonage Street, Nelson Street and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 24th March 2014, it is expected that the work will be completed by 28th March 2014. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Russ Titley of Severn Trent Water who can be contacted on 07825 938041 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 20th day of March 2014

N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/56819	Selbourne Homes	Land Between The New Lodge And The Old Lodge, Thimblemill Road, Smethwick B67 6NR	Proposed construction of 13 No. 4 bedroom, 2 and 3 storey dwellings, detached double garages and landscaping works.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Dear Neighbour
Public consultation for the new Health Futures Unversity Technical College on the former Sandwell College site is about to commence. We would like to share with you the plans and images for the new College together with details relating to the planned sequence of operations and traffic movements during this phase.
We are running two public engagement meetings in the foyer of Sandwell Library, 316 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8DZ on;
Friday, 28th March, 2014, 10am till 12 noon.
Saturday, 29th March, 2014, 10am till 12 noon.
Yours sincerely
BAM Construction,
Associated Architects and Education Funding Agency.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES ACT 1965
Notice of Cancellation pursuant to section 16 of the Act

Notice is hereby given that the Authority has, pursuant to the above mentioned section this day cancelled the registration of Smethwick Royal British Legion Club Limited (Register No. 12229 R) the registered office of which is at Highway House, 137 Londonderry Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 7EL at its request.
The society ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.
Date: 05 February 2014
Financial Conduct Authority, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS

10 Personals

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general

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Villa side prove they are a bit special

Villa 1 Chelsea 0

Football

IS it possible that in Jose Mourinho, Lambert's players have actually found someone who finds it more difficult to win at Villa Park than they do?

Whatever the root cause of this footballing upset, everyone at the club should take a moment to close their eyes, recall its assault on the senses and remember this is what football at Villa Park should be about.

Like a long lost but cherished old friend returning, the stadium was thundering in celebration of an epic and dramatic victory on Saturday evening and when the old place does that it is one of the domestic game's grandest experiences.

Lambert and co haven't been able to orchestrate too many in their one-and-three-quarter seasons together.

But on Saturday, Villa snared Chelsea good and proper; ran them to a standstill, rattled them into a loss of discipline before spearing the table leaders with a solitary late goal from Fabian Delph.

Mourinho, who has still to win at Villa Park in five visits, was sent to the stands in the final minute. Already Ramires was on his way having been red carded for a studs-raised challenge on Karim El Ahmadi.

Chelsea's ire had been stoked by the 69th-minute sending-off of Willian following a second booking after he briefly tugged at the shoulder of Delph.

In many ways, those were keynote incidents which summed up the game – Chelsea drawn into rash acts of malevolence by the exuberant energy of the opposition.

But as the visitors retreated to deal with the after-shocks of a result they just did not see coming, Villa were left assessing their brightest outlook of the season and, perhaps, for the future beyond.

Most obvious was the nine-point gap between their welcome appearance in the top half of the table and the bottom three.

In the 14 months since that nightmare with Bradford City, Lambert's authority and the credibility of his team in general, and signings in particular, have been under relentless and critical scrutiny from a disgruntled public.This performance and result has returned to the manager a vote of confidence from his public.

Villa boss is full of praise for Leandro

VILLA boss Paul Lambert has hailed Leandro Bacuna's goal-den touch and believes there is more to come from the flying Dutchman.

The manager is pleased with the impact the versatile ace has made in his debut Premier League season.

Bacuna has netted five times this season, with his goals helping Villa win four games, and has ousted regular right-back Matt Lowton from the side.

And Lambert insisted his £800,000 summer signing from Groningen has been one of his best bargains.

"It's his first time in the league and he's been a big bonus for us," said Lambert. "He's got five goals from right-back, he's done great.

"If you look at his goal against Norwich, him and Andi Weimann virtually start parallel with each other near the 18-yard box.

"Gabby Agbonlahor ends up passing it to Andi who slips Leo in. It was a great goal.

"To chip in with the amount of goals he has done has been brilliant. I've not worked with Leo for that long but he's definitely got that kind of energy in him."

Lambert focuses on victory not Jose

JUBILANT Paul Lambert played down Jose Mourinho's touchline tantrum after hailing Villa's "mammoth" win over Chelsea.

Lambert's team banished the survival alarm at Villa Park and jolted the Londoners' Premier League title charge with a 1-0 win that had a 40,000 crowd eating out of the palm of their hands.

It was a win which added Chelsea to the conquests of Manchester City and Arsenal in an uneven season not without its problem patches for the Villa boss.

And it ended in dramatic circumstances as both the Villa boss and his opposite number ended up on the pitch, along with a host of substitutes and staff, when tempers boiled over after Chelsea midfielder Ramires was sent-off for a stamp on Karim El Ahmadi.

Mourinho was sent to the stands by referee Chris Foy.

"A lot of it's banter and a lot of fun. As long as it never overspills it's alright," he said. "I know what Jose's doing – he's been around the block. If you go on about decisions it deflects from the performance."

Lambert also saluted the "massive potential" of

Magic Mike makes his mark for Tividale

Tividale FC 1 Quorn FC 0

TIVIDALE leapfrogged previous leaders Quorn to go top of the Midland Football Alliance table in a pulsating game at The Beeches.

With this being Tividale's fourth game in eight days and Quorn well aware of the home side's attacking capabilities, the game started cautiously.

Apart from a couple of long range efforts, the first 30 minutes passed by without incident with both defences well on top.

Tividale felt they should have had a penalty on 30 minutes when Nathan Waite looked to have been pushed in the back by Quorn's Sam Young, before the defender conceded a corner.

From ensuing the Karl Edwards kick the ball was cleared back out to him and his first time shot flashed past the face of the goal. Twelve minutes later Tividale skipper Richard Huckfield rose the highest to meet a Chris Field free kick but his header went straight into the arms of Quorn keeper Laurie Pearson.

The second half was only two minutes old when Tividale broke the deadlock. A cross by Edwards evaded everyone and Waite did well to retrieve it at the edge of the box, skipping past his marker and firing in a shot that Pearson could only parry into the path of Michael "Magic" Wardle who found the net.

Tividale could have added a second on the hour when great pressing from Edwards caused an error in the Quorn defence. Edwards found Waite but his lob over

Football

Pearson went wide.

The last 15 minutes saw Quorn put the home defence under pressure but they were never really able to cause Tividale keeper Charles Price any problems.

In the end it was Tividale who had the best chance when in injury time substitute Kieran Miller was left on his own just inside his area and raced onto a long clearance. Instead of shooting after bearing down on goal he tried too find the supporting Edwards but his pass was too short and Quorn cleared.

Tividale: Charles Price, Andrew Parsons, Zac Foster, Chris Field, Mark Smith (Mitchell Plows), Richard Huckfield, David Bellis, Sam Williams, Nathan Waite (Kieran Miller), Michael Wardle, Karl Edwards

Subs: Tim Beech, Ryan Winwood, Luke Paskin

Quorn: Laurie Pearson, Tom Cooper, Sam Young, Jordan Wakeling, James Dodd, Niall Prenderville, Karl Whymark, Dan Henton, Dominic Brennan, Liam Turner, Liam Read

Subs: Blaize Kerr, Nathan Dale, Alex Honour, Michael Turner

Tividale match-winner Michael Wardle, left, gives chase in the clash against Quorn

New boss Lee looks to top four

BIRMINGHAM Speedway have appointed the experienced Jack Lee as new team manager.

Lee, who has been with Buxton for almost 20-years, was being introduced to the riders at the Selco Classic individual meeting at Perry Barr – the club's opening meeting of the season.

He replaces Phil Morris who left the club in November and will take charge for the first time in the Elite League derby clash at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Lee said: "Making the play-offs has got to be the main aim, and with the solid team we've got I think that's achievable.

"Hopefullywe can push on to make that all-important top four."

Khalsa let their lead slip away

Cradley Town 1
Sporting Khalsa 1

AS games go, this was anything but a classic, on a bobbly pitch neither side could take significant control of the first half with chances restricted. The best chance of the half fell to Mark Habbershaw who went clear on goal but his shot was saved by the impressive Cradley keeper Richard Kennedy.

In the second half Khalsa started to get on top of the game with the opening goal through John Cordy in the 75th minute but 10 minutes later Khalsa switched off from a corner and Carl Martin got an equalizer for the home side.

Khalsa's U-15s are in the County Cup after beating Rosehill Raiders 5-2.

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Victor is hinting at World Cup spot

ALBION striker Victor Anichebe has hinted he would return to the Nigeria team for the World Cup this summer – but insisted he has not been asked about an international comeback.

Super Eagles media officer Ben Alaiya claimed coach Stephen Keshi was hoping to persuade Anichebe to end his international exile.

But, while the 25-year-old refused to rule out a comeback in time for the finals in Brazil, he dismissed suggestions that discussions had already begun.

"I haven't spoken to anybody," he said. "That goes from the federation to Stephen Keshi himself. We will see what happens.

"Right now I'm playing well and feeling fit. If I continue to play well from now to the end of the season then we can take it from there.

"The World Cup only comes once in every four years and it could be my last opportunity – this is something I'm aware of but I haven't spoken to anybody."

Anichebe, born in Lagos but raised in Liverpool, made his Nigeria debut in 2008 but missed out on the 2010 World Cup.

Meanwhile, the Baggieshave already sold 2,100 tickets for Saturday's trip to Hull and expect to break the 2,000 barrier for the April 5 visit to Norwich.

Blues boss in drop fear

Sheffield Weds 4 Blues 1

BIRMINGHAM boss Lee Clark has urged his side to banish any relegation fears with a couple of victories.

Clark admitted he was getting a touch nervous after Blues' 4-1 reverse at Sheffield Wednesday.

The defeat left Clark's men eight points clear of 22nd-placed Charlton but the Addicks have four games in hand.

Wednesday manager Stuart Gray praised his side's victory as one of their best of the season.

Wednesday raced in to a 2-0 half-time lead thanks to goals from Caolan Lavery and Leon Best.

An own goal from Blues' Will Packwood extended the lead ahead of another stunner from Lavery.

Lee Novak was able to guide home a Chris Burke cross late on for a consolation effort.

Teams draw blank in scrappy encounter

Tipton Town 0 AFC Wulfrunians 0

Football

A SCRAPPY encounter between Tipton and neighbours AFC Wulfrunians saw the match end up with a goalless draw.

The visitors had the best of the chances and balance of play and Tipton had to thank some wasteful finishing from AFC and the woodwork for the point they took from the game.

On seven minutes the first of a number of golden chances went begging, first for Wulfrunians as Richard Golding blazed his shot over the bar.

And on 15 minutes it was the turn of Joe Rogers to feel the frustration as he screwed his shot well wide of the post from a good position in the box. The woodwork played another role in the match and denied Lee Wherton on 36 minutes.

With six minutes to go before half time, Marvin Nisbett shot just wide of Danny Tipton's post after a breakthrough run which was instigated by Wherton.

The second half continued in much the same vein but it was Wulfrunians who undoubtedly took the best of the chances pushing for the opening goal to break the deadlock.

On 57 minutes a shot by James Skedgel was blocked in the area by Chris Waterhouse amidst loud appeals for handball but the game went on despite the protests.

Just a minute later Pemberton made a decisive touch from Scott Stevenson – who was excellent throughout – as they broke with purpose and pace, diverting his shot agonisingly wide of the post.

And just after the hour Wulfs struck the post through Jordan Perks and then even the follow up was well blocked by Rob Perks to keep the game scoreless. Town weathered the storm and came fighting back hoping to be the side which got first on the scoreboard, when a Mensah Kinch header was deflected over the bar.

A Wherton effort with five minutes to go looked like it could be dangerous right until the moment he made contact with the ball.

Wulfrunians could have wrapped up the game in injury time – and Tipton could have had few complaints – but the extra minutes were of no real use in terms of either side winning the game and Bradley Lawley's header was planted over the bar.

MEL PEPPED UP BY BAGGIES WIN

Swansea 1 Albion 2

THE shortcomings that plunged the Baggies into trouble and which Pepe Mel had struggled to cure continue to dog his side.

But thanks to Youssouf Mulumbu's late strike following Stephane Sessegnon's equaliser, Mel and co head into games against Hull, Cardiff and Norwich having finally remembered how to win.

Football

And the Spaniard will once again have been encouraged by the character displayed by his side after the interval as they mounted a spirited comeback.

Just as they had against Everton, Liverpool and Chelsea at home, Mel's men responded to a 1-0 half-time deficit with a second-half display of genuine resolve.

Troubled

But this time they completed the job to record their first victory since New Year's Day and the first of Mel's brief but troubled reign.

Only Jeremy Peace and fellow directors Mark Jenkins and Richard Garlick, who sat stoney-faced alongside the chairman as Albion were ripped apart before half-time, know just how close the Spaniard was to having his tenure cut short.

Had the Baggies repeated their abysmal, disjointed, ragged first-half showing after the interval, it is safe to assume the passionate former Real Betis boss would have been fighting to save his job.

For 45 minutes his side were as woeful as they have been all season.

They were taught a lesson in pressing and passing by a Swansea side who raced into a second-minute lead through Ronald Lamah.

But the second half brought about the most unexpected of turnarounds.

Albion suddenly began to close down their opponents and, out of nowhere, the Swans became nervous.

The impact was immediate and they threatened to draw level within two minutes of the restart when a corner was cleared as far as Mulumbu, who saw his shot blocked by Jordi Amat.

On 52 minutes they equalised when Steven Reid's pass was controlled by James Morrison, who squared for Sessegnon and saw the club's record signing make his most significant contribution yet.

Then, with five minutes remaining, came the magic moment as Mulumbu picked up possession and was invited to shoot as the Swans defence backed away alarmingly.Mulumbu accepted the invitation with wonderful class to stroke a right-footed shot in off the post.

Albion's Jonas Olsson slides in on Swansea City's Jonathan de Guzman

Mel glad Anelka row over

BOSS Pepe Mel believes the end of the Nicolas Anelka saga should benefit Albion's bid for Premier League survival.

The Hawthorns head coach believes the departure of Anelka, who left the club on Friday with the Baggies claiming he was sacked, should remove a potential distraction from his team.

Mel's comments came after news emerged the FA will appeal to FIFA to ensure Anelka does not escape punishment for his 'quenelle' goal celebration by moving countries.

He tweeted on Friday that he had quit Albion, only for the club to claim just hours later that they had sacked the Frenchman for 'gross misconduct' over the gesture at West Ham in December and Friday's tweets.

Mel said: "My relationship with Nicolas Anelka was good and he helped me but I hope now the situation is resolved in the best way possible for all parties.

"The club needs all of its forces and energy to move forward.

"We are professionals and not keeping West Bromwich Albion up would be a failure for everyone."

Hosts denied by late penalty

Wednesfield 1
Dudley Sports 1

WEDNESFIELD had to settle for a West Midlands League Premier Division point after Josh Jones gave them a 19th minute lead.

In a rare attack Dudley equalised in the 70th minute when Nixon stepped up to score from the spot after a foul by Ashley Bradley.

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